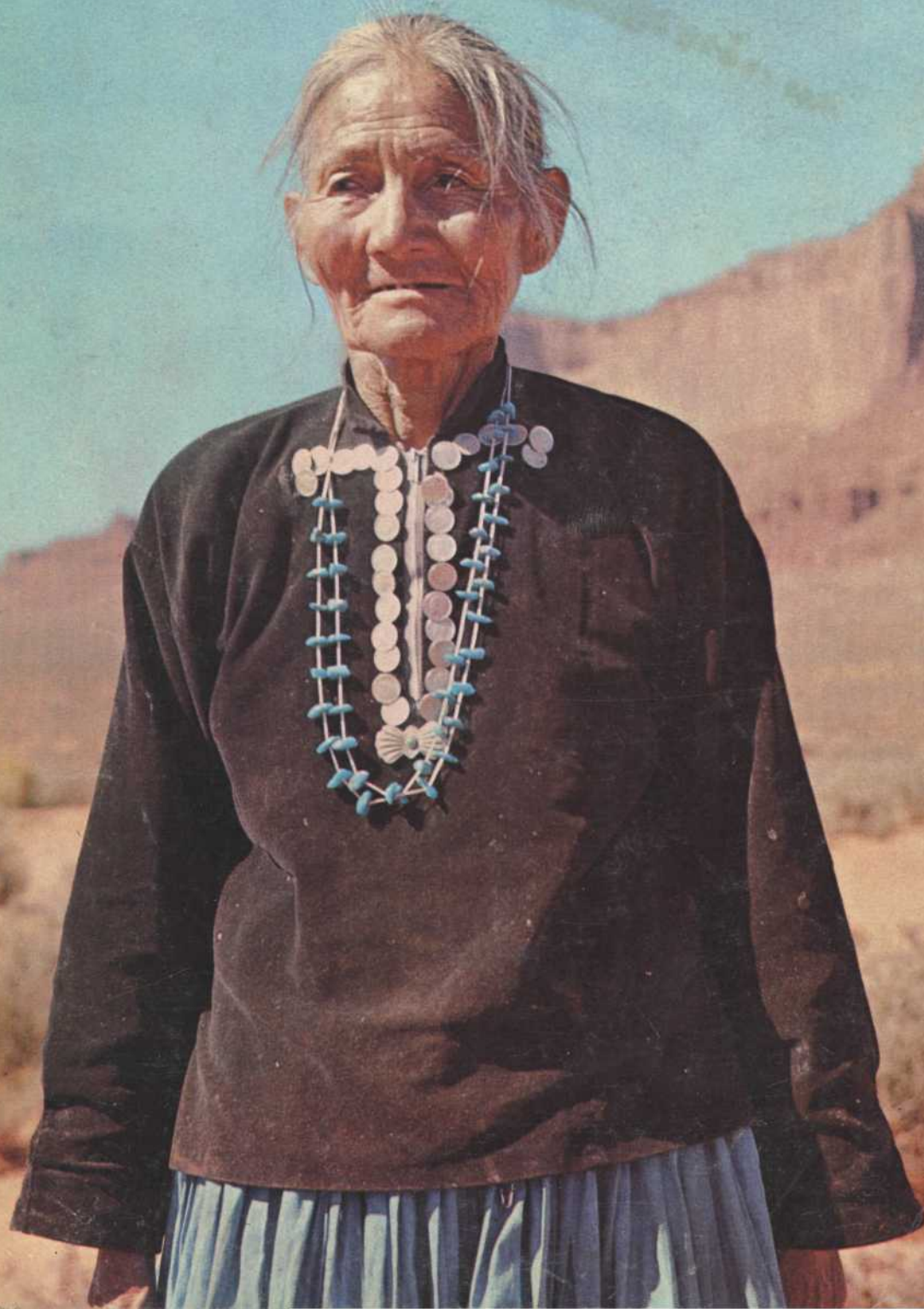


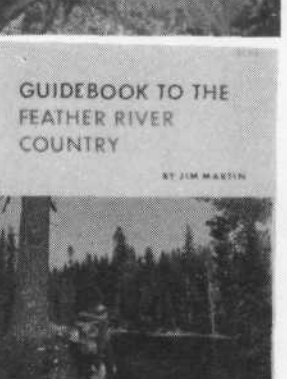
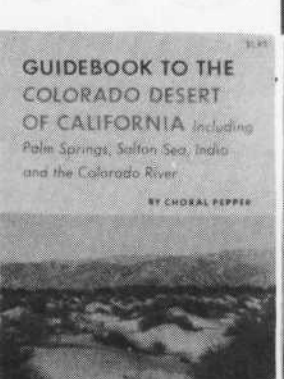
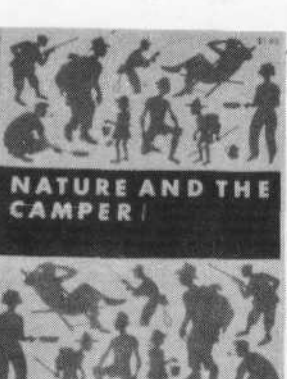
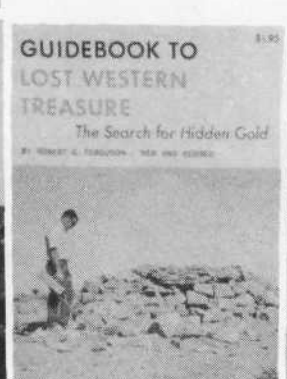
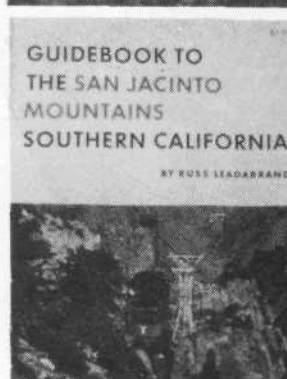
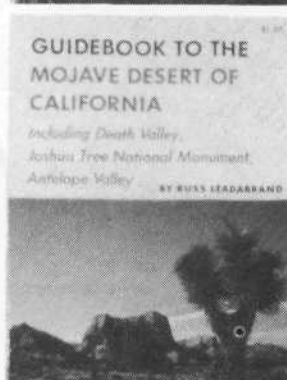
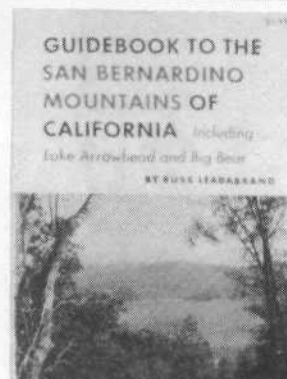
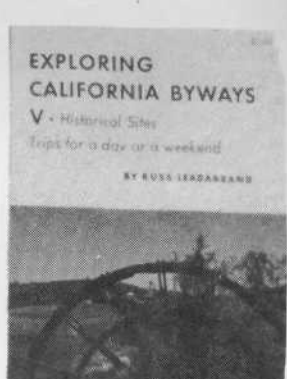
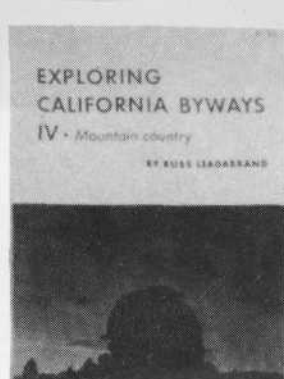
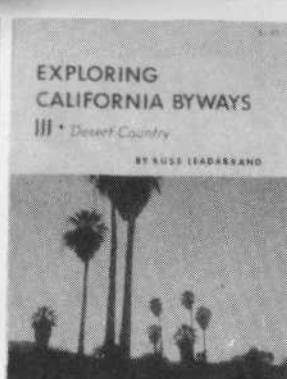
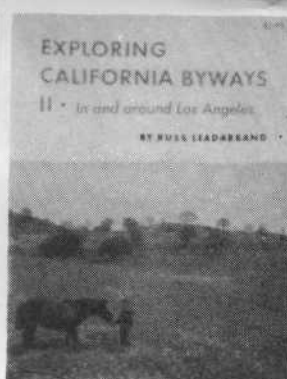
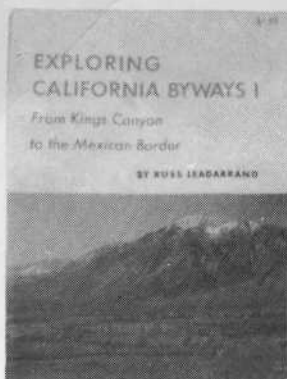
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Volume 37, Number 10

OCTOBER 1974

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A Peek in the Publisher's Poke

VARIETY IS THE spice of life, and that is what the October issue is all about! Varying from our usual style, George Leetch brings you the first installment of a two-part article on hiking along an old Spanish mission trail in Baja California. This was no casual stroll and its successful completion required the use of an airplane, a boat and a camper, in addition to some well-toned muscles.

Our naturalist, K. L. Boynton, enlightens us about the fast and flashy ring-tail cat in his feature entitled, "Desert Acrobat." Mary Frances Strong examines Nevada's Gorge Country and their strange land formations.

Over in Utah, Fran Barnes extolls at length on the wonders of Dead Horse Point and how it was named. This is a beautiful part of the mighty Colorado River scenery that is overlooked (no pun intended) by the majority of tourists and visitors. It's a "must" for desert lovers!

Enid Howard has a colorful account of Escalante Country, with its alpine meadows, towering canyons, luring back-country areas, and a paradise for rockhounds and camera buffs. In fact, you name it, and Escalante Country has it!

The rockhounds get a bonus this month with a feature by Jack Pepper on Quartzsite, Arizona, a little spot on the map that is making a big impression with the rock and gem folk.

To be really different, we've inserted our 1975 Book Catalog which, hopefully, will make your shopping by mail easier. This catalog can be removed and saved for future use by those of you who do not save your magazines.

Finally, Diane Thomas has a tale of a murdered friar in New Mexico who, for some strange reason, will not stay buried and he keeps rising to the surface. It might not be a real ghost story, but it sure is a classic example of "you can't keep a good man down."



New Mexico is a country where edges meet—formed by the Western rim of the Great Plains, the windy ridges of the Rockies and the strangeness of the Sonoran Desert. It is a vertical country, where one looks down from cold fir-spruce forests into hot valleys of yucca, cactus and desert flowers a mile below.

Traditions and cultures are as variable as the landscape. Here is the Dinétah, the Holy Land of the Navajos made safe from monsters by the Hero Twins and guarded by the four Sacred Mountains. Here, too, are the pueblos of the Keresan, Tanoan and Zunian people who had built a peaceful democratic society while Europe bled through the Dark Ages and who still call the clouds with their ritual dances. And here remain the old Hispanic mountain villages which mark the last frontier of the Spanish Empire.

In this collection of landscapes by David Muench and illuminating words by Tony Hillerman, New Mexico's many and varied contrasts unfold in a unique blend that is her mysterious beauty—and a grandeur that is our natural heritage.

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WE WALKED A

THE SEA OF CORTEZ was over a mile below us, a vast puddle of shimmering blue in the first light of the morning sun. Through the windows of the airplane we could make out the hazy shoreline of mainland Mexico's Sonoran coast. Closer, to our right, the great granite Picacho del Diablo, Baja California's loftiest peak, thrust up 10,000 feet above sea level. San Felipe appeared ahead and we could see the tiny forms of Mexican fishermen aboard the fleet of shrimp boats which floated at anchor in the bight of the crescent-shaped bay.

Within what seemed only minutes, the Islas Encantadas hove into view and we marked where the dusty scratch of road turned inland at Bahia San Luis Gonzaga and twisted into the rugged interior. That

would be the last we would see of roads for many miles as our plane took us south along the east coast of Lower California.

Our destination was a small cluster of palm trees and green foliage in the beautiful and remote Bahia Agua Verde, some 600 miles down the gulf shore of the arid, sun-baked peninsula. Before our trip was over, it would involve not only the use of an airplane, but also car, boat and finally, the real point of our venture, to hike with backpack along an ancient Spanish mission trail. As I gazed down on the sere, brown hills and rocky promontories which flowed under our plane like an endless belt, my thoughts went back to the events which led to our present adventure.

It had really started in June of '73. I was on vacation from my job as a ranger

in California's Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and my wife, Jean and I headed our Jeep Wagoneer south into Mexico's rugged, 1,000-mile-long peninsula. The new paved road, which would stretch from California's international border down to "lands end" at Cabo San Lucas, was just a bit over 100 miles short of completion. We were anxious to prowl into some of Baja's hidden corners before the final link was finished.

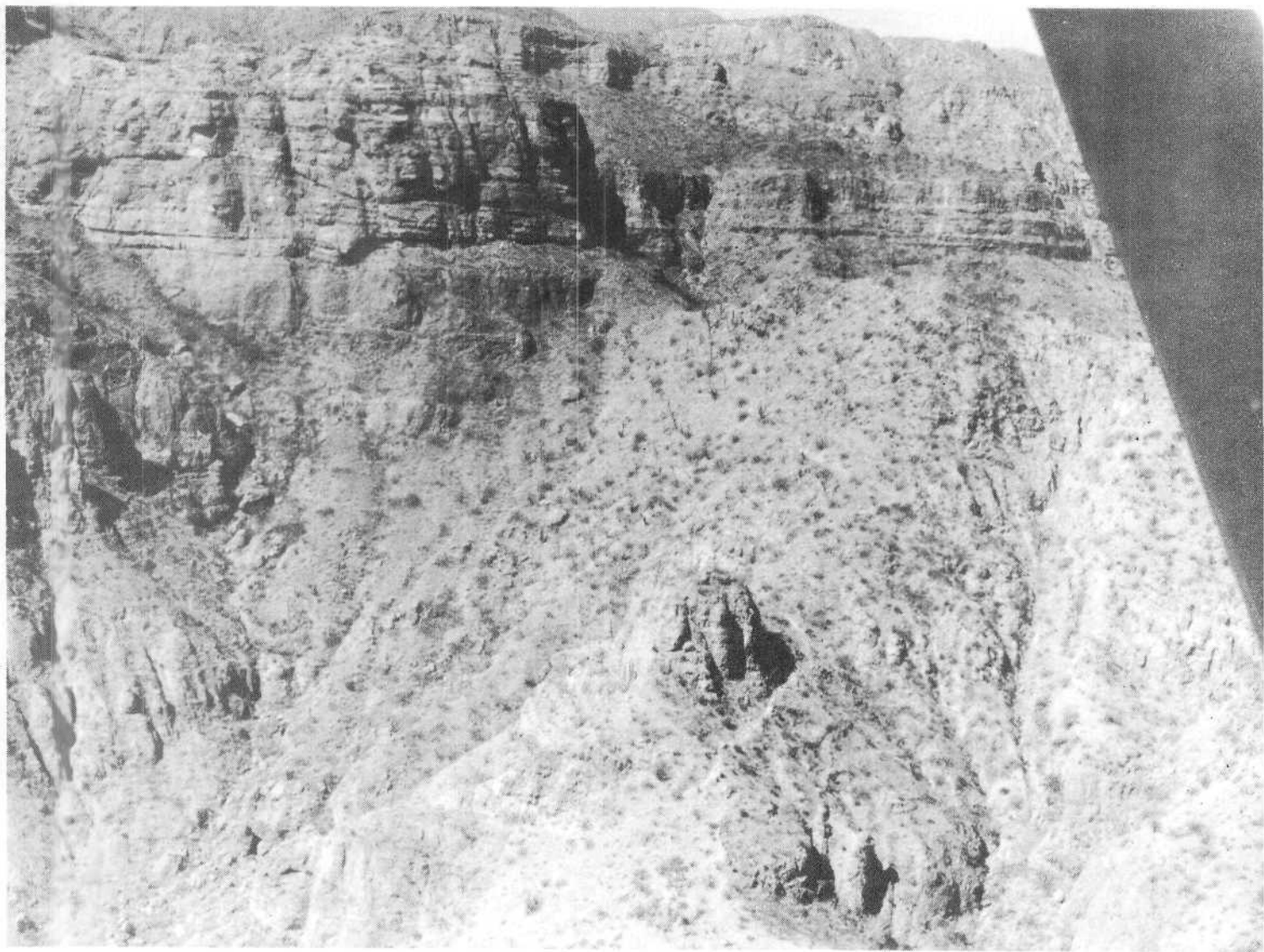
During the past 30 years, I had logged many miles over the "Forgotten Peninsula" in my various four-wheel-drive vehicles. Most of these miles were driven when the trans-peninsular highway was only a dream and old-timers scoffed at the possibility that a paved road would ever traverse the length of Baja California's

by
**GEORGE
LEETCH**



An aerial survey revealed the old trail and emphasized its remoteness and told us the walk would not be an easy one.

MISSION TRAIL



wildness. Now that dream was almost a reality and I considered the probable consequence with mixed emotions.

For the June trip, Jean and I set our sights on the region around Loreto. This is a most appealing area and provides a jumping-off place into some of Baja's most spectacular country. Bold, craggy mountains, long, curving beaches and deep blue bays guarded by bird-covered islands give this territory a special prehistoric quality. It is easy to imagine that you are the first to gaze on its unspoiled

beauty.

One day we were exploring a bay south of Loreto known as Ensenada Blanca. We were having lunch on the white sand near the water's edge when an outboard motor-driven skiff appeared from across the bay and landed on the beach. A slender young Mexican stepped out of the boat and greeted us. This was our introduction to Romeo and, in a way, he shaped our destiny.

We talked for awhile in Spanish of various things. Romeo, although presently

working on the new highway, normally earned his living by fishing. He was affable and a storehouse of information about the country. As we visited, I questioned him about a possible route along the coast to the south. He assured me that there was indeed a foot path, although he had never traveled it. The trail was an old mission route which went through the mountains and along the shore to an isolated village of palm-thatched houses at Bahia Agua Verde. Our friend didn't know the distance, but believed that the

hike could be accomplished in two or three days. He warned, however, that he had heard of no fresh water along the route.

Although we were sorely tempted to investigate this unknown path, Jean and I knew our limitations. A trip of this sort would take careful planning. There would be another time and we vowed to return and walk the trail from start to finish.



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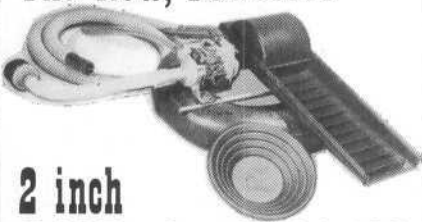
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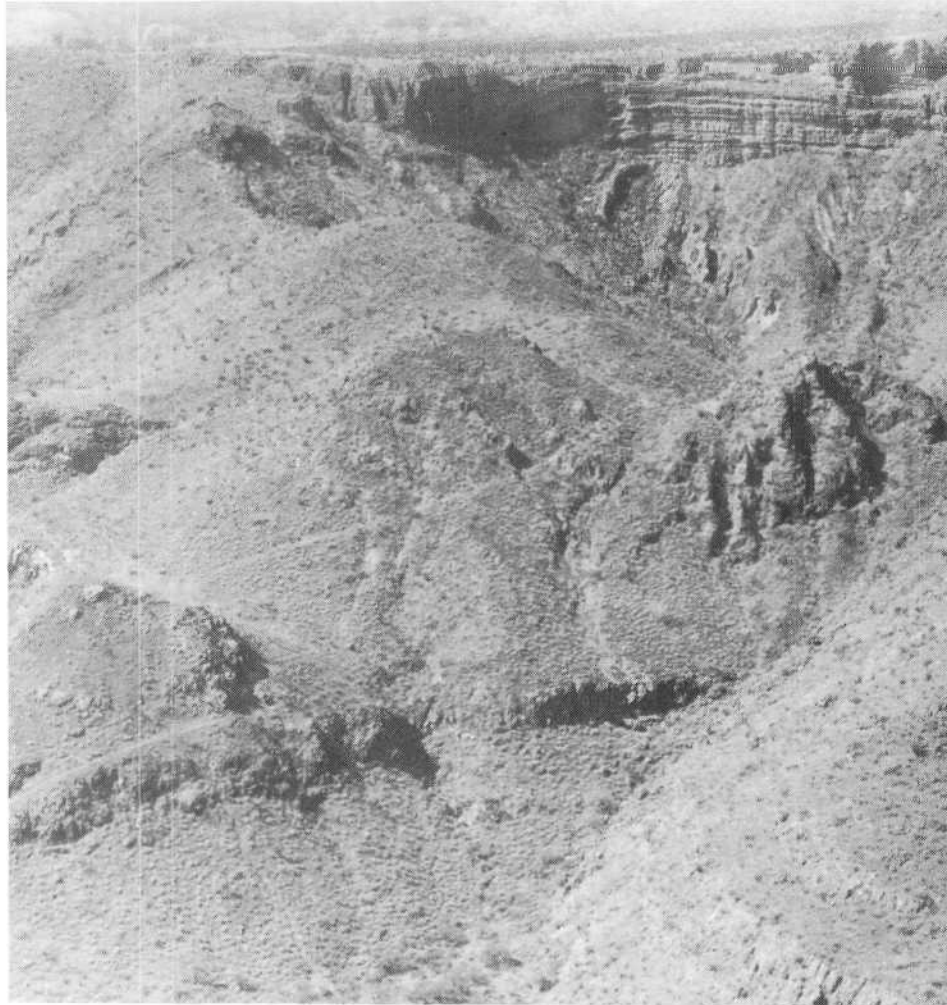
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We left Loreto the following morning and drove up the Baja peninsula in an easy three days. What a difference it was from previous trips before the paved highway when the best time I could average was a jolting 10 miles per hour.

It was good to be home once more, but uppermost in our minds was the lure of the ancient foot path to Agua Verde. Our reference books on Lower California offered only vague, tantalizing clues to this seldom-used route. Almost 300 years ago, it had served to connect a chain of missions from Loreto to La Paz. The segment of the trail which stirred our interest started at the crumbling ruins of the Ligui Mission, 20 miles south of Loreto. We read that the mission was founded by the Jesuit Fathers in 1705. Sixteen years later, after a series of devastating attacks by the fierce Pericu Indians, the mission was abandoned. From Ligui, the trail followed the coast 23 miles to the fishing village of Agua Verde.

The sketchy background of history which we managed to uncover only whetted our interest and made us all the more determined to make the walk. There were, however, matters of a more practical nature to be dealt with. How high

were the mountains which had to be crossed? Would we have to carry all of our water? How much food to take? These and many other questions occurred to us.

It was while discussing the dilemma with our friends, Marvin and Aletha Patchen, of Ramona, California that a solution to the problem was presented. Both of them are *aficionados* of Baja California and were full of enthusiasm when they learned of our half-formulated plans. Marvin, who is owner-publisher of the popular aviation magazine *Aero*, and is also a pilot, proposed that we take a reconnaissance flight to survey the Ligui-Agua Verde region. This would allow us to assess the route, determine its condition and possibly arrange for a boat to take us to the start of the trail. This suggestion met with our instant approval.

So, within just a month of the trip to Baja California, we returned by air. We flew past Loreto and finally located the old mission trail as it twisted and turned through the mountains and along the beaches south of Ensenada Blanca. What a thrill it was to look down on the route where, within a few weeks, we would be walking with packs on our backs. In some of the rougher sections, Marvin brought

*The old mission trail
was barely visible
from the air,
snaking its way
across the rugged terrain.*

the plane down to a lower elevation so that we could take photographs and sketch a map. It took only a little imagination to visualize the early builders of this historic route; the stone-age Indians who made the first footprint, then the Spanish Padres marching into the New World with their Christian crusade.

Now that we had actually seen the trail, our enthusiasm soared. There was an aura of mystery about the region which intrigued us. The trail was waiting. Now it was up to us to accept the challenge. Our Baja backpack was soon to begin and we flew home from Loreto impatient to take our first step on the road to adventure.

The next few weeks were busy ones, with most of our spare time spent getting ready for the trip. The Patchens would supply the airplane, a six-place Cessna with a cargo storage pod. Dr. Thaddeus Jones, a seasoned Baja traveler, would take a short respite from his Laguna Beach medical practice and go along as co-pilot. The sixth member of our party, Paula Davis, would join us in Loreto. Paula has a lovely home there which she calls *Casa Casi*, or "House Almost." It is a charming sanctuary which reflects her warm and pleasant personality. Paula agreed to make the arrangements with some local fishermen to take us by boat to the start of the Agua Verde-Ligui trail. She would do this, she admonished me, only on the condition that she be allowed to accompany us. Paula was welcomed with open arms.

The game plan for our venture was concluded after much discussion. The Patchens would fly from Ramona to our Borrego desert home and Thad would drive from Laguna Beach on the same day. The five of us would take off the following morning for Baja California. After touching down at the Mexicali airport for flight papers and tourist entry documents, we would again be airborne for four more hours until we landed at the airstrip in Loreto. There we would be met by Paula in her pickup camper which would carry us to Ensenada Blanca. At that point, if our plans worked out, we would rendezvous with the fishing launch for the sea

voyage to Agua Verde and the start of the trail.

Now, as I stared down at the Baja Peninsula which was rapidly slipping by us, the excitement of the trip came to me once more. The roar of the plane's motor made conversation difficult in the close confines of the cabin, but I knew that the other passengers shared my feelings. This was destined to be a unique adventure that we would remember the rest of our lives. ☐

Conclusion Next Month

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DESERT ACRO

by K. L. BOYNTON

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AMID THE CLIFFS and canyons of the rocky arid lands of the great Southwest, from southern Oregon to Baja's tip, resides that finest of desert acrobats—the ringtailed cat. Quick and agile, this little fellow is skilled in mountain climbing techniques and, from the tip of his sharp nose to the end of his handsome black and white striped tail, he is well equipped for such up and down living.

Ringtailed he is, indeed, its white bands going completely around it, the black ones only partially so, but a cat he is not. In reality he is a backhanded cousin of the raccoons, but different from these heavier and more stolid citizens in many ways. Slender and lithe, the ringtail weighs in at only about two to three pounds, raccoons up to 49. His head is small and delicately-shaped, his ears large, his eyes big, his fur soft. His much longer tail matches his head and body in length. Fast of foot, he could outrun, outclimb and undoubtedly outthink his cousins, all of this being no mean accomplishment since raccoons are pretty good at all this, too. What with his alert, sharp-nosed, whiskered face, bushy tail and speedy ways, he seems to fit his scientific name *Bassariscus astutus*—clever little fox—more closely. And yet, shy and rather timid, he has none of a fox's brashness or cunning.

Being strictly a night operator, the ringtail starts his day at nightfall. Yawning and stretching, he emerges from his cool retreat deep in a rocky crevice or hole in a tree, and proceeds with the business at hand: namely seeing about breakfast. Now a ringtail is not a fussy eater, being fond of many delicacies such as rats,

mice, rabbits, lizards, birds, insects, snakes, fruits, berries, prickly pears, spiders, centipedes. His menu naturally varies with what is at hand, depending both on the particular region where he resides and upon the season. Zoologist Walter Taylor, checking up on the grocery list of ringtails in Texas, found that during the autumn insects made up more than one-third. Plant material came next at about a quarter, mammals next, then birds, mainly small sparrow types. Wintertimes, the ringtails shifted over to the mammals more, with insects next. Springtimes saw the insects take first place in the diet again, with rabbits and other small mammals second. Insects made up half the food supply in summer, supplemented with fruits and berries, mammals being way down the line. Birds were eaten all season, but even in the protein-important winter, made up not more than a quarter of the menu.

A hearty eater, the ringtail is no pig, nor does he kill for the sport of it. What he captures is eaten promptly and since he is no believer in maintaining a larder, he never takes more than is needed for a meal. So, much of his activity each night is centered about getting something to eat. Naturally enough, such foraging requires a lot of high class sniffing, peering and big-eared listening. In the ringtail's rough terrain, it also requires scrambling up and down and around rocks and boulders, sometimes pell mell in pursuit of a fleeing mouse hotfooting it home to avoid being a menu item.

Biologist Gene Trapp, catching glimpses of some of this ringtail-racing around the strictly up and down scenery of Zion National Park, wished to verify that what he *thought* he saw in the growing darkness couldn't possibly be. So he caught some of these fellows and fitted them with light-bearing collars consisting of a

microlamp "grain of wheat" lamp plus four disc batteries inserted in a plastic medical bracelet that fitted neatly around the ringtail's neck. Letting the animals go again, he watched to see what would happen. The lamps could be seen up to one-quarter-mile away with binoculars, and in the dark they appeared to flow and bob rapidly over the landscape of boulders and talus slopes—and, straight up the rough face of a forty-foot vertical sandstone cliff, and straight down again.

This was too much for Trapp, and so he set about finding how in the world ringtails do the impossible. After a lot of hard anatomical study and with the help of several ringtail boarders he supported, and who, frolics about the furniture and doors of his apartment, kindly showed him first hand what they could do, he had the answers.

It seems that key to the impossible is the fact that the ringtail's hind feet can rotate 180 degrees, so that when he descends a steep or vertical surface headfirst, they point straight backwards. Their hairless pads are then flat on the surface. Foot strength and pad friction are often enough, but the sharp curved nails are also there ready to be extended and applied if necessary. Sure of his foothold in this headfirst position, he can run down swiftly or even walk slowly if it pleases him, instead of having to back down the way a domestic cat descends a tree.

This, of course, is handy, not only for rocky terrain going, but for tree climbing and since much good fruit and many a tasty insect are to be had aloft, the ringtail can gallop up one tree, search for dainties, descend quickly headforemost and be up another with no loss of foraging time. The hindfoot rotation also permits a kind of grasping motion, as one female demonstrated in Trapp's home when she

BAT

shashayed upside down slothlike along a taut horizontal cord, holding on to the cord with the flexed toes of all four feet.

Nor is this rotating-hind-foot-headfirst bit the only adaptation ringtails have for living as they do. They, too, know about "chimney stemming," the mountaineer trick of climbing or descending a crevice between two vertical walls where there are no good holds. Pressing all four feet on one wall and their backs against the other, for example, they can work their way safely up or down.

Changing their minds on a narrow ledge is as nothing to them, it being a simple matter to reverse direction in either of two ways: they may swing their forequarters up, putting their abdomen flat against the wall, and then making a semi-circle climbing motion drop their front end down again, this time aimed in the opposite direction. Or, they may brace their front feet, and looking out, swing their hindquarters up, and with their tails hanging down their back, move around in a semi-circle until their hind feet drop down again and they are faced in the opposite direction.

For speedy going, it seems that they know how to apply the old ricochet principle. Headed for a point high overhead, for instance, they get to running, hit a vertical wall to the side, and pushing hard against it not only rebound upwards, but gain momentum. This technique could be used to handle crevices too wide or steep or too smooth to climb or chimney stem, or in the case of the need for a rapid escape up or down, provide a fine way for frustrating changes of direction at high speed. Useful, too, it seems, to coy ladies at courting time.

Family raising takes place around the Tucson area and in Texas in April, May and early June, probably a little later in the more northern ranges of the ringtail.



The ringtail cat. Photo by George W. Bradt.

Three or four youngsters is par for a litter. Zoologist William Richardson's observing a ringtail blessed event in his laboratory learned much about their advent and growth. It seems that while papa has been tolerated in and about the home nest during the period-in-waiting, some three or four days before the actual arrival he is invited out of the premises by his spouse, now suddenly grown exceedingly snappish.

Squeaks announce the eventual arrival of the young, who, it must be said, don't look like much to human eyes. Thinly covered with whitish fuzz, their bodies are pudgy, with only the pigmented skin of their stubby tails foretelling its stripes. Their eyes are closed, their small ears

shapeless and fleshy, their chubby feet and toes weak. Even their faces look half-done, their muzzles so blunt, and their toothless mouths, while big and broad, do not quite accommodate their tongues which curl up at the side edges. Altogether, not enticing. But they apparently suit the ringtail mother, for sitting hunched up with her front legs propping up her body, she helps direct them to the lunch counter, at which, fortunately, four places are set. Fresh out as they are, the youngsters are quick to find the food source and thanks to this and other good and constant maternal care, are off to a good start. Papa's banishment ends in a day or two, and he is apparently invited

Continued on Page 40

The church
at the Pueblo of Isleta.
Photo by Ed Cooper.

Ghost Stories of Isleta

by DIANE THOMAS

GHOST STORIES of the Old West usually turn out to be the result of an imagination fired by too many pulls on the whisky jug, but one story has been attested to by an archbishop, a cardinal and a governor.

About the time the Spanish soldiers were getting a toehold in the Southwest, somewhere along in 1735, a Franciscan friar made his way to the Pueblo country through hostile Indians to the east of New Mexico. By the time he reached Laguna Pueblo, west of Santa Fe, he was foot-sore, feverish and on the verge of starvation. The friendly Pueblo Indians gave him shelter, food and the services of their medicine man.

Brother Juan Padilla was halfway a prisoner, but his understanding of the Indian beliefs enabled him to gain the respect of the Pueblos. He had had training in basic medicine in his priory and in the following years, he administered to the physical as well as spiritual needs of his rescuers. He was a gentle friar, teaching

his religion by example, blending it with Indian lore, always careful not to offend the Pueblos by trying to force them to his way of thinking. His simple humane contact with the Pueblos made a deep impression on them, and over the years, he was admitted to even the most sacred rites in the underground kivas. He had truly become their brother.

The Pueblos added their knowledge to his, and Friar Juan learned all he could about their language, their symbols, their rituals, their medical skills. The Indians no longer thought of him as their white brother, but considered him one of their own tribe. And the gentle friar was content to remain at Laguna Pueblo.

Friar Juan had lived among the Pueblos for 20 years when a runner brought news that a Spanish army was forming in Mexico, set on invading the Southwest in a last-ditch effort to find hidden gold. Whether there was ever a fabulous gold horde in New Mexico has not been deter-

mined, but perhaps the Spaniards believed the Indians were guarding such a cache.

While the tribal chieftain had never had any doubts as to Friar Juan's loyalty, a few members of the sprawling Pueblo tribe felt he had learned too much of the Indian ways and secrets, and they wanted to be sure none of their private knowledge would be passed on to members of a race hostile to all Indians.





One Pueblo brave, more fanatic and suspicious than his more deliberate brothers, decided not to wait until Friar Juan's loyalty to his adopted race was proven. One dusky evening, he planted his hunting knife neatly between the friar's shoulder blades.

The non-violent Pueblos were horrified by this act of treachery. First, it was a violation of their sacred laws of hospitality, for a person invited to stay in your tepee

was considered physically immune from danger. Also, the many seemingly miraculous cures the friar had effected on their sick members gave him the status of a medicine man whose knowledge came from a powerful god. Since the invading Spaniards were of the friar's race, who knew what horrible punishment they would inflict on the Pueblos when they learned of the crime against one of their kind. The tortures the Spanish thought up

for their prisoners were only too well known.

That night, the chiefs of the village wrapped the friar's body in a sheet and placed it on a litter. Four of their swiftest runners were summoned. They were instructed to see the body reached Isleta, 70 miles to the east, and to bury it there.

The runners took less than two days to reach Isleta. The church at that time had a dirt floor and there, in great haste, they

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dug a grave six feet deep before the altar. Although the friar had taught them the rites for the dead, their only thought was to return to their village as quickly as possible, so they upended the litter, slid the body into the hole and pressed down the dirt, smoothing it carefully to erase their marks. This was in 1756.

The Spanish army came and left, on their way back to Mexico with no success in their quest for gold. No Indian spoke of the murder of the friar.

Fifteen years passed, and one day in Isleta, an old man, whose job it was to care for the church and sweep out the dirt floor before Sunday services, went inside to do his work. He stopped short at a peculiar bulge in front of the altar. It was the size of a man's body, but only a few inches high. He said nothing, and apparently the local padre noticed nothing in the dim interior.

A year went by, and the bulge had grown higher until a crack appeared in the earthen floor. Still no one questioned it, thinking it was just a natural thing—perhaps caused by water beneath the surface. In two years more, the crack had widened, and dirt had to be added to it and tamped down. Three years, and the same remedy was attempted as the crack grew wider. No use, the crack kept growing and soon had to be walked around.

Exactly 20 years from the death of the padre, the Isletans came into the church one Sunday morning, and there on the floor, face up, lay Friar Juan. The crack in the earth was gone; the friar lay as though sleeping. His flesh was soft to the touch, as though he had just died. The frightened Isletans rolled him over and stared at the knife wound in his back, which had fresh red clotting blood around it. They ran to call the elders.

Knowing nothing of the story of the murder, the superstitious Isletans thought the figure was Heaven-sent, and reburied him by re-digging the grave. It was a useless gesture. At the end of 20 years, the bulge, the cracks, the reappearance of the body was repeated. The Isletans buried him again.

The next time the padre reappeared, the elapsed years had shortened. The current Reverend Father of the Mission wrote the Military Chaplain in Santa Fe that the box containing Friar Juan's body was surfacing in 1819 and requested an examination be made. The Chaplain ob-



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liged and made a written report, a copy of which is in the archives in New Mexico. The document was witnessed by several friars of the Pueblo. In it, he confirmed the lifelike appearance of the dead padre saying they placed a new robe on the form since the old one had disintegrated, and that the body was supple enough to dress easily and cross the arms afterwards. The body had been put into a cottonwood box when reburied in 1776, with the old blue habit untouched. The Chaplain also made mention of the decomposed bodies of people buried after the 1776 reburial, with bones remaining although the padre was intact.

When Friar Juan turned up again in 1895, the Isletans sent for a priest, the Governor and the Archbishop of Santa Fe. The Archbishop had a distinguished house guest—a Cardinal visiting from Rome, and he came along to take a look at the padre who wouldn't stay buried. The two churchmen testified they saw a body appearing freshly dead.

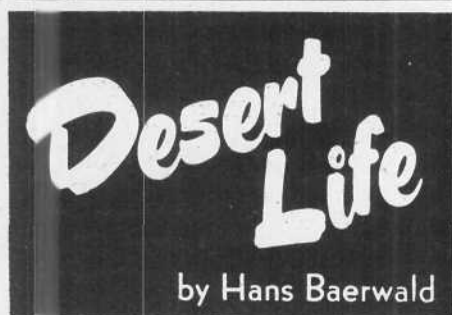
This time the burial ceremony was a bit more complete. The body was placed in a heavy oak coffin, along with a copy of the document. The lid was nailed down firmly, and prayers for the dead were said. The coffin was then reburied in front of the altar and the entire floor covered with two-inch planks.

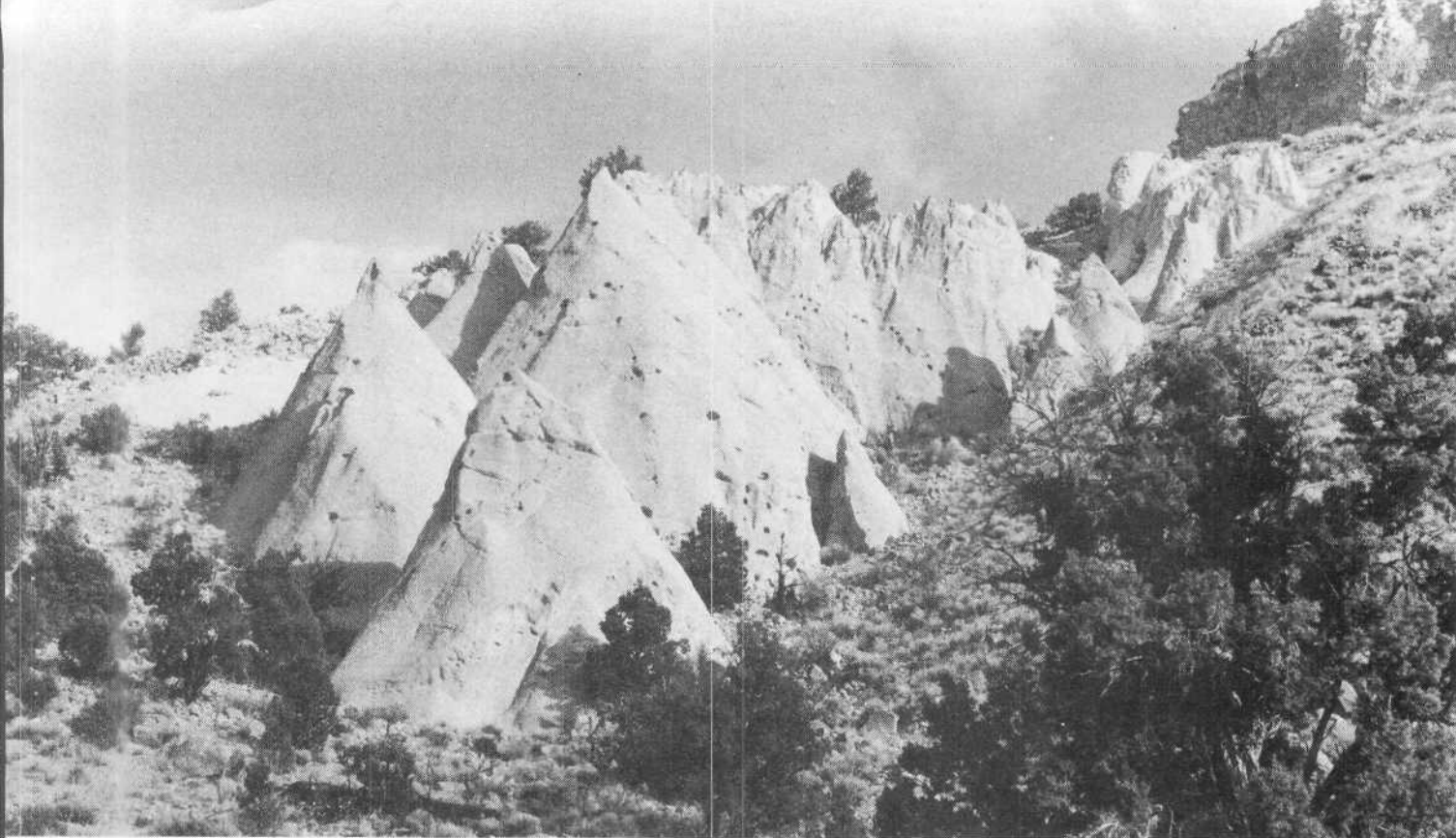
Apparently this satisfied the restless padre for, according to the present Governor of Isleta Pueblo, Alvino Lucero, the friar has remained sleeping this century. But no one knows whether he will show up in 1976 or not.

Is it fact or legend? The story of the restless friar is well-known to New Mexicans. Some claim the recurring floods brought the body up. But every 20 years or so? Some claim the condition of the soil under the church is such that a form of mummification took place. But leaving him flexible? And where is the original document, copy of which was found in the coffin in 1895? Perhaps in 1976 the questions will be answered. □



A very young roundtail ground squirrel surveys the world his first day out.





Nevada's Gorge Country

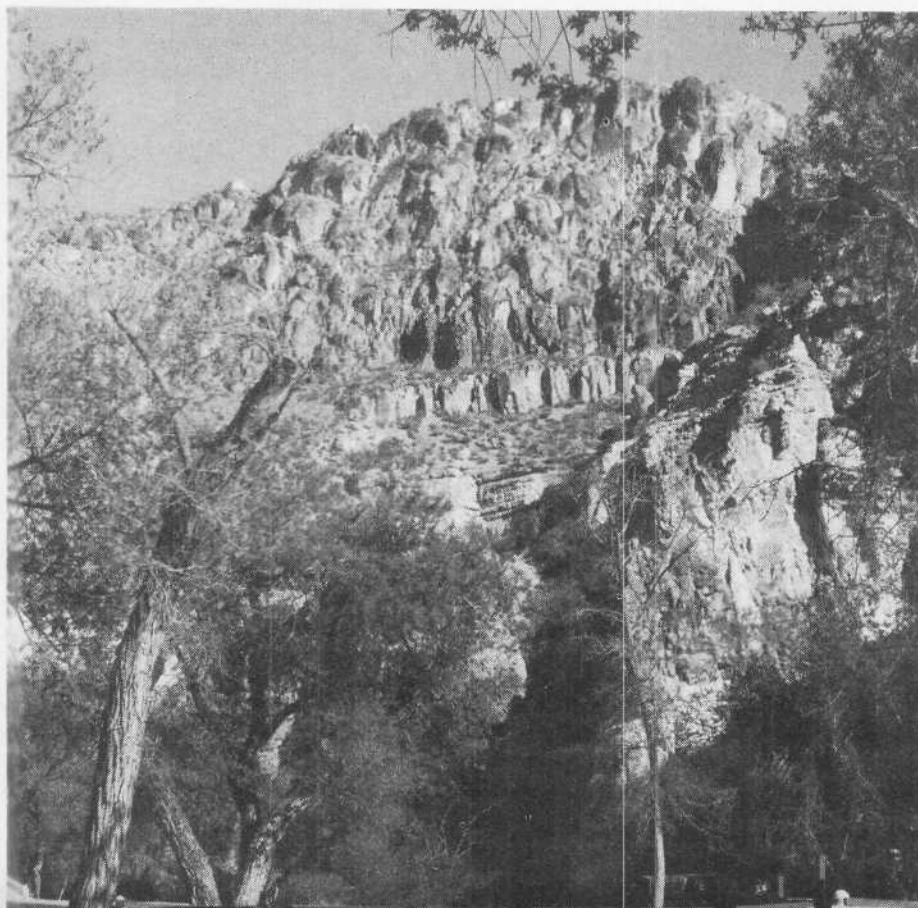
by MARY FRANCES STRONG

Photos by Jerry Strong

IN EASTERN Lincoln County, where pin-yon pine and juniper forests mingle, the boundary between Nevada and Utah is not discernible. Colorful pink, red, coral, beige, brown and white "canyonland formations," usually associated with Utah, have spilled across the state line and combined with the broad basins and narrow-ribbed mountains which are Nevada's forte.

Lying almost parallel with the boundary 10 miles east, is a great rent in the earth's crust. Beginning in the White Rock Mountains, it extends south for nearly 150 miles to a junction with the Virgin River. Along a 50-mile segment of

Kershaw-Ryan State Park is nestled by pink, beige, orange and brown canyon walls and the campground is pleasantly sheltered by trees. Photo by M. Humphreys. Courtesy Nevada State Parks.



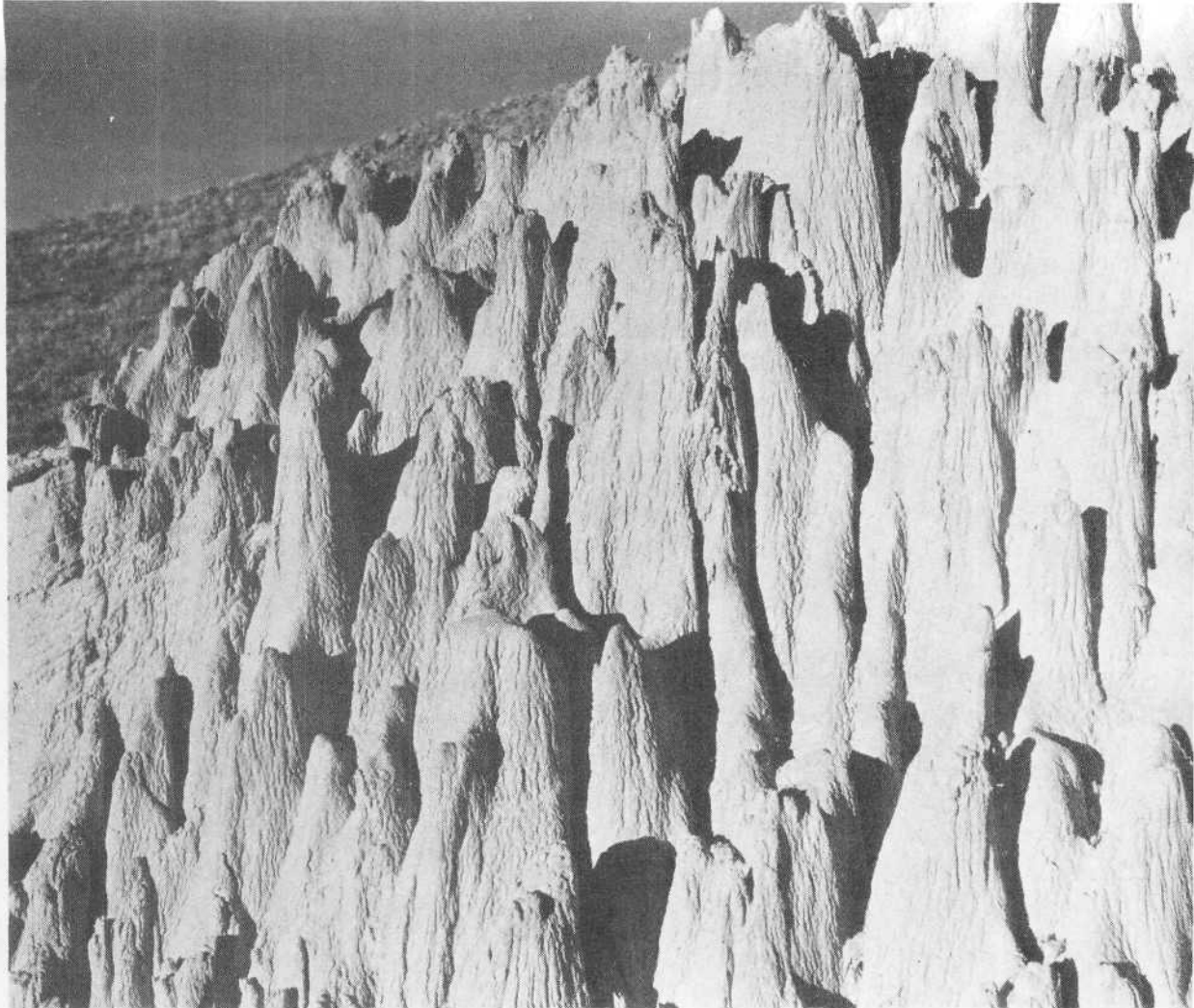
Opposite page:
It doesn't require
imagination in
order to recognize
"Tee Pee Rocks"
in the

Clover Mountains
east of Caliente.

This is the
smaller of two
unusual formations.

Right:
"The Choir Group"
formation at
Cathedral Gorge
is beginning
to "melt away."

At certain
times of the day,
it clearly resembles
singers in
a choir loft.



this vast erosional channel, between Panaca and Elgin Siding, four outstanding geological formations are exposed. They offer scenic beauty and exploration *par excellence*. Toss in some old mining camps, ghost towns and historical settlements, and you have Nevada's Gorgeous Gorge Country.

Cathedral Gorge and Kershaw-Ryan State Parks are the two attractions receiving 97 percent of the visitors' attention. Only a few people venture into Rainbow Canyon. The unusual "Tee Pee Rocks" appear to be known only to some of the local folks and a few hunters. This is magnificent country and it will challenge the recreationist who enjoys exploring on his own.

One of Nevada's most well-known parks, Cathedral Gorge is a long, narrow valley where run-off from infrequent rain and snow storms cuts deeply into fine silts and clays to form a fantastic pink labyrinth. The Queens Chair, Choir Group, Moon Caves, Cave Canyon and Cathedral Caves are a few of the many outstanding formations to be seen.

A walk into Cathedral Caves discloses very narrow passages with perpendicular

walls 50 or more feet high. In places, hips brush the walls on both sides; and, as you bend backwards in order to see a scrap of sky overhead, the walls seem to be leaning in on you. "Walking inside" is a thrilling experience, but not advisable for anyone who suffers from claustrophobia.

Cathedral Gorge Campground is beautiful. Laid out on a base of pink gravel among a grove of Russian olive trees, it is kept immaculately clean. Each unit gives privacy with ample room for car and trailer. A spacious rest room facility offers hot showers (free). There is a heater for cold weather use, since the campground is open the year around. Camping fee is \$2.00 per night.

We arrived at Cathedral Gorge in late October and elected to use the attractive campground for our base of operations. While we explored many regions in all directions, it was the "Gorge Country" that commanded our attention first.

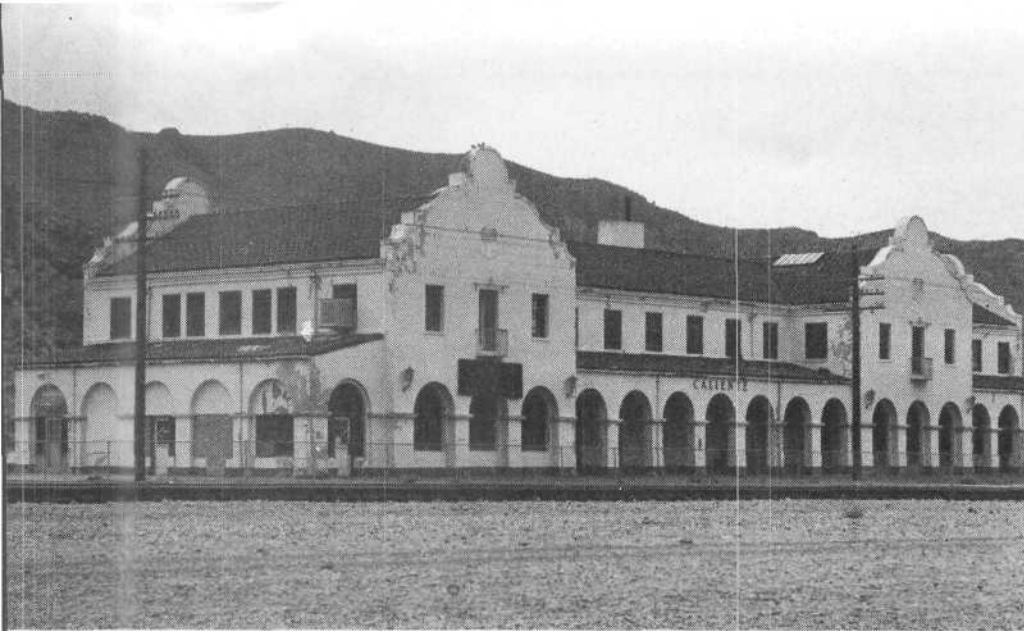
A stone's throw southeast of Cathedral Gorge is the little community of Panaca—the first permanent settlement in southeastern Nevada. Problems between the government and the Mormons at Salt Lake City in 1858 had prompted

Brigham Young to order missionary groups to search for possible retreats, should war develop.

A group, known as the "White Mountain Boys," spent many months in Meadow Valley developing an intricate irrigation system which utilized a warm artesian spring at its northern end. Crops were planted and other improvements made before they were called home when the threat of war diminished.

It wasn't until May, 1864, that the first settlers, the Francis Lee Family, arrived in Meadow Valley. Finding the earlier irrigation system was still in good condition, they quickly planted crops, then set about building temporary quarters of sod and pickets. Full scale colonization had begun and, within two months, 18 families were living in the Panaca L.D.S. Ward.

From the beginning, there was trouble with the Indians, but it was not caused by reasons generally credited to such problems. At first, the Paiutes were friendly and were treated kindly by the Mormons. As a result, the Indians began to take advantage of the settlers—stealing horses, cattle and pilfering. When they became



The large hotel-station at Caliente remains, though it no longer houses overnight guests. The northern end [left] is now used as the City Hall.

increasingly hostile a small detachment of 20 men, under Captain J. Pearce (Mormon Battalion), was sent to protect the settlers. An adobe and log fort was erected and the families moved inside during the fall of 1864.

When the militia left, so did more than half of the settlers. Only six families remained at the fort. A townsite was surveyed in the spring of 1866 and the families moved from the fort to town lots. New people began arriving and the little community began to grow.

Though William Hamblin, of St. George, had located the Panaca Lode (rich silver deposits) in the Pioche Range in 1863, Indian hostilities and Brigham Young's disapproval of mining had prevented its development. Hostilities were under control in 1868 when Charles H. Hoffman and F.L.A. Pioche purchased the Mormon claims and formed the Meadow Valley Mining Company. The subsequent mining boom brightened Panaca's future. Population rose to over 500 and businesses included a thriving lumber mill, grist mill and farm products—all eagerly sought by the growing mining camp 10 miles north.

In 1866, an Act of Congress had added "a strip of land measuring one degree in width between the 37th and 42nd parallel" to the eastern edge of Nevada. The new boundary had not been surveyed. Mormon settlers, believing Panaca was in Utah Territory, paid their taxes to Washington County, Utah. Lincoln County, Nevada assessed the Meadow Valley residents but, due to the lack of man-

power, could not collect the amounts due. Reportedly, the settlers ran the Assessor off at gun point.

A long and bitter fight ensued with cases reaching the Supreme Court. An 1870 survey disclosed Panaca to be in Lincoln County, Nevada. This news nearly dealt a death blow to the community. Many of the "saints" found living outside of Utah untenable and more than half of the population had left by 1871.

Panaca survived and this year celebrated its 110th birthday. Today, as you drive through the little town, broad, tree-lined streets show the thoughtful planning of a hundred years ago. A modern cement-block building houses the post office and fire station. Across the street, the 106-year-old "Panaca Mercantile" building (now a marked historical site) still serves the community as a general store.

A short distance north, Panaca Hot Springs continues to furnish irrigation water and provide a fine swimming hole in summer. We ate our lunch at the Springs, sharing the shade of a cottonwood tree with a beautiful mare. From this point we could follow the path of Meadow Valley as it rambled south. Horses idly grazed in still green pastures rimmed with yellow blossoms of rabbit brush. Idyllic in setting, it was easy to see why Panaca had survived in a remote and hostile region.

I was reminded of a statement in the book, "A Century in Meadow Valley," by the Panaca Centennial Book Committee. They described Panaca as "a town which for a century has kept its pioneer names,

its pioneer quaintness, its pioneer goodness; a town which has been kind to children and mindful of old folks; a town which has been the birthplace of many and the lifelong residence of a few; a town which children have always loved and adults never quite forgotten." We need more communities like Panaca—where small town friendliness and caring for one another is still a way of life.

Heading south from Panaca, Highway 93 wanders along the western side of Meadow Valley. In about five miles, the Valley narrows as the rugged bulwark of the Chief and Cedar Ranges press close to one another. Colorful canyons beckon on both sides of the road and glimpses of old mining ventures are seen. Unexpectedly, the road curves abruptly east around the base of a mountain and enters the old railroad town of Caliente.

Known as Culverwill, before the railroad was completed in 1905, Caliente is located at the junction of Meadow Valley Wash and Clover Creek Canyon. In the early days, it was an important crossroad where trails into Utah, as well as northern and southern Nevada, met. Construction of the Salt Lake and Pioche Lines turned Caliente into a bustling railroad town complete with 12 yard tracks, machine shops, eight-stall turntable and a fine hotel-station. The latter is readily visible from the highway today.

Immediately south of Caliente is Kershaw-Ryan State Park. The access road passes through high, massive eroded cliffs interspersed with rhyolite flows. Their pink, beige, orange and brown coloring complement the simmering green leaves of trees in the campground.

Each gorge has its own distinctive personality. Kershaw-Ryan is the "quiet one"—lying secluded in a canyon among towering cliffs. Facilities include spring water, stoves, modern comfort station, hot showers and group shelters. You will find trails to wander and side canyons to explore. Generally, Kershaw-Ryan is open the year around. However, in the fall of 1973, the Park Ranger had been transferred and the Park closed for the winter.

A half-mile beyond the State Park road (west on Highway 93), a sign proclaims "Beautiful Rainbow Canyon—16 miles south." An old blacktop road leads down Meadow Valley Wash, eventually changing to a graded road as it snakes between the Clover and Delamar Mountains.

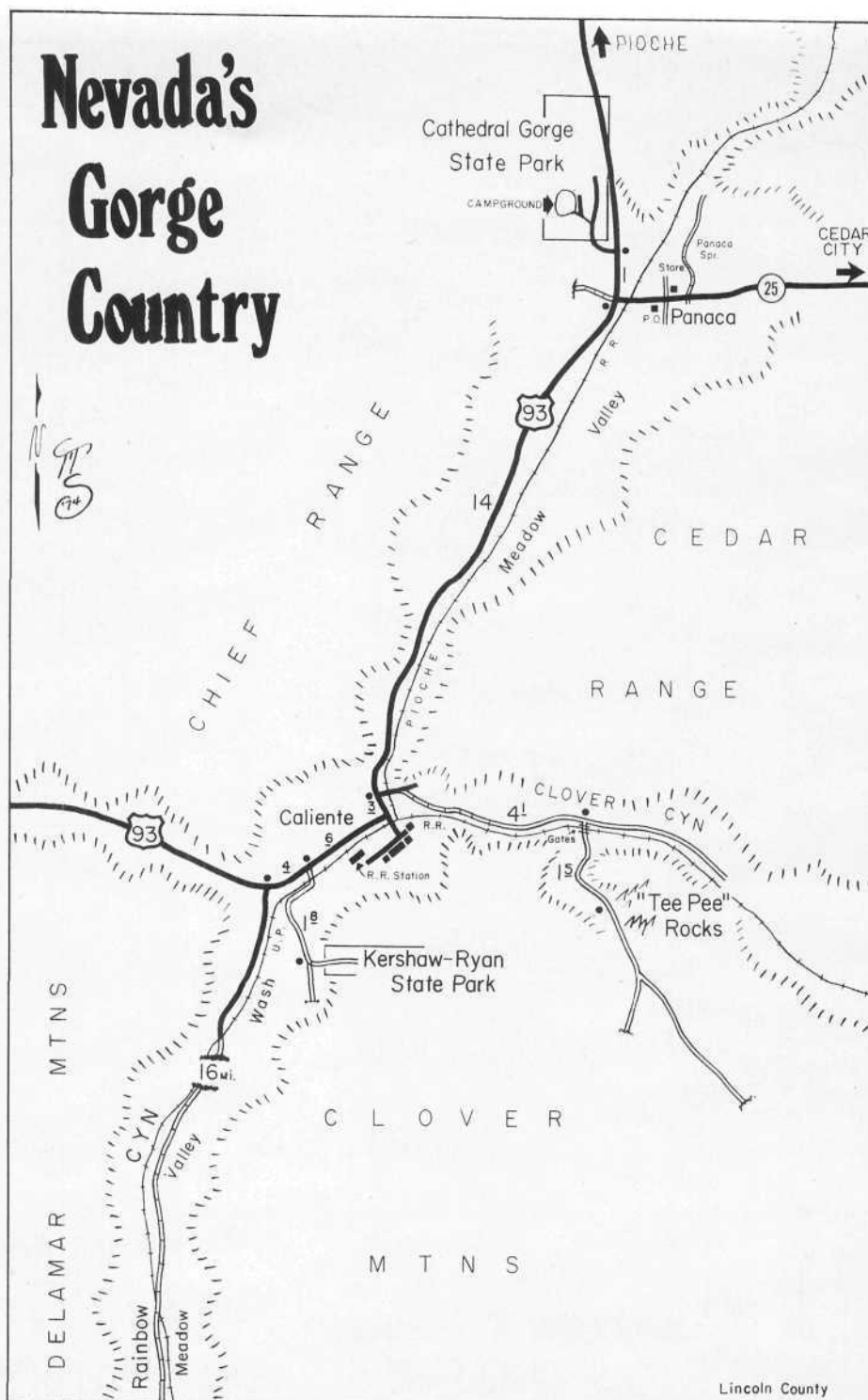
Should you desire, it is possible to follow this route for 80 miles and join Highway 91 just west of Glendale. Rainbow Canyon, while colorful and scenic, is also a "natural textbook" of geological formations. It is my hope that this region will become a Geological State Park offering self-guided trails and markers of explanation.

Road, railroad and stream parallel one another as they wander down Meadow Valley Wash. At several points, the creek has ponded and large groves of cottonwoods flourish. Trees also mark the sites of active and abandoned ranches. Readily seen from the car are rainbow-colored mountains, a "petrified sand dune" high on a mountainside and several very large caves in brick-red sandstone cliffs. There are no campgrounds, but plenty of places to pull off and stay awhile.

When planning to visit a region, we look through our file of very old maps. They often show points of interest no longer included on modern ones. Seeing "Tee Pee Rocks" indicated on an "oldie" of Nevada's Gorge Country, we guessed they would probably be an interesting rock formation and elected to try our luck finding them.

It had turned cold the previous evening and morning brought a mackerel sky. It wasn't going to be a good day for photographs, but we decided to take our chances. Just north of Caliente, we turned east at the Hot Springs road sign, followed the paved road a short distance, then kept right on the dirt road into Clover Canyon.

After about two miles of travel, the road deteriorated and became muddy and sandy in places. We engaged our 4WD and found it prevented any difficulties as we crossed and recrossed Clover Creek. Just over four miles from the highway, a sign pointing south indicated "Pine Valley Dam—Ella Mountain & East Pass." Deciding this must be the route we were looking for, we opened the gates, crossed the railroad tracks and followed a back-country road heading into the Clover Mountains. A light rain had begun to fall and the pungent fragrance of sage, pinyon pine and juniper filled the air. We curved around some low hills, then turned southeast. Four-wheel-drive became a necessity as we rounded another hill and entered a loose-bottomed wash. Ahead, fantastic to behold, a village of giant Indian tepees stood on the side of a



mountain!

We enjoyed our lunch while watching the ever-changing light on the unusual formations. Two exposures were noted and their resemblance to "tepees," especially from a distance, was incredible. The rain stopped, but it was still very cloudy. Jerry set up his cameras and was ready when a momentary break in the clouds came, sometime later.

Examining Tee Pee Rocks, we speculated they were originally sizable sand dunes, covered by igneous flows, then uplifted and exposed by erosion. We are

quite aware that not "all" of Nevada can be a State Park, but hopefully, steps will be taken to include this outstanding formation in its Park System.

Nevada's Gorgeous Gorge Country has many hidden treasures, such as Tee Pee Rocks, that are little known and seldom seen by visitors. The exhilaration felt when exploring and seeing Nature's handiwork is far more intoxicating than wine. Spending time in this land of magnificent colors and formations will send you home with a soul full of beauty and a desire to return again. □



DEAD HORSE P

THE STATE OF UTAH offers its visitors and residents a wide variety of state parks, recreation areas and historical monuments. These range in size from less than an acre for certain historical buildings, to almost 22,000 acres. Many provide access to lakes of various sizes, and include launch ramps and other marine facilities. Most offer developed campgrounds and picnic sites, some of these excellent by any standard. A few are still undeveloped, but offer primitive scenic beauty or historical interest to those who visit them.

Entry fees of \$1.00 are charged at developed state parks, recreation areas and some historical sites during the travel season. Additional fees are sometimes charged for camping or the use of marine or other special facilities. Annual permits are available for \$10 which provide entry to all Utah park system areas, plus reduced fees for the use of certain facilities. Those 62 years of age or older may purchase these annual permits for half price.

One of the oldest and most popular parks in the state system is Dead Horse Point State Park in southeastern Utah.

This well-developed scenic attraction has no counterpart anywhere, and is so outstanding that an enthusiastic out-of-state visitor was recently heard to remark:

"We sure didn't know Utah had scenery like THIS! Why, this beats even the Grand Canyon!"

What prompted this remark? And why such a strange name as "Dead Horse Point?"

Well, picture a gigantic, slightly-tilted plateau edged with sheer cliffs hundreds of feet high. Visualize one tip of this elevated plateau narrowing to just a few

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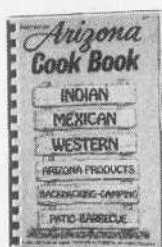
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GOLDEN CHIA, by Harrison Doyle. This book illustrates the great difference between the high desert chia, and the Mexican variety presently sold in the health food stores. It identifies the energy-factor, a little-known trace mineral found only in the high desert seeds. Also includes a section on vitamins, minerals, proteins, enzymes, etc., needed for good nutrition. Referred to as "the only reference book in America on this ancient Indian energy food." 100 pages, illustrated, Paperback, \$4.75; Cloth Cover, \$7.75.

DUTCH OVEN COOKBOOK by Don Holm. Wildlife editor of the Portland Oregonian, the author has spent his life exploring and writing about the outdoors, so his recipes for preparing food in a Dutch Oven come from experience. If you haven't had food cooked in a Dutch Oven, you haven't lived—and if you have, you will find these recipes new and exciting culinary adventures—as well as his style of writing. Heavy paperback, 106 pages, \$3.95.

ANASAZI: Ancient People of the Rock, photographs by David Muench, text by Donald G. Pike. This outstanding, moving publication gives the reader the unique opportunity to see and understand the Anasazi civilization that existed some 2,000 years ago. Blending with David Muench's superb photography, historian Donald Pike provides a fascinating text. Hardcover, profusely illustrated with color and black and white photos, 192 pages, \$16.95 until Dec. 31, 1974, then \$18.95.



ARIZONA COOK BOOK by Al and Mildred Fischer. This fascinating and unusual five-cook-books-in-one features recipes for Indian cooking, Mexican dishes, Western specialties, Arizona products and outdoor cooking. Includes sourdough and Indian fried bread recipes, as well as other mouth-watering favorites. Unique collections of hard-to-find Western cooking. Paperback, 142 pages, \$3.00.

COINSHOOTING, How and Where To Do It by H. Glenn Carson. This book presents tips and "tricks" on coinshooting and hunting other items lost by people over the years. Metal detector owners will find their hobby made more profitable, says this veteran "coinshooter." Paperback, illustrated, 58 pages, \$2.50.

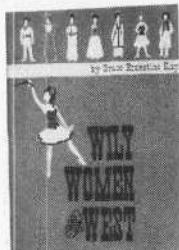
LOST MINES AND HIDDEN TREASURES by Leland Lovelace. Authoritative and exact accounts give locations and fascinating data about a lost lake of gold in California, buried Aztec ingots in Arizona, kegs of coins, and all sorts of exciting booty for treasure seekers. Hardcover, \$4.95.

MINES OF THE EASTERN SIERRA by Mary DeDecker. Facts about the mines on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada and Inyo Mountains. Paper, \$1.95.

DICTIONARY OF PREHISTORIC INDIAN ARTIFACTS OF THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST by Franklin Barnett. A highly informative book that both illustrates and describes Indian artifacts of the Southwest, it is a valuable guide for the person interested in archaeology and anthropology. Includes 250 major types of artifacts. Each item has a photo and definition. Paperback, 130 pages, beautifully illustrated, \$7.95.

SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN TRIBES by Tom Bahti. An excellent description, history and current status of the Indians of the Southwest, including dates of their ceremonies and celebrations. Profusely illustrated with 4-color photographs of the Indian Country and the arts and crafts of the many tribes. Large format, heavy paperback, 72 pages, \$2.00.

SOUTHWEST INDIAN COUNTRY by the Editors of Sunset Books. A concise and comprehensive guide covering the 48 reservations and Pueblo villages in Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado. Includes what to see, how to buy, conduct, history and ceremonials. Large format, colored illustrations, heavy paperback, 80 pages, \$1.95.



WILY WOMEN OF THE WEST by Grace Ernestine Ray. Such women of the West as Belle Starr, Cattle Kate and Lola Montez weren't all good and weren't all bad, but were fascinating and conflicting personalities, as researched by the author. Their lives of adventure were a vital part of the life of the Old West. Hardcover, illustrated, 155 pages, \$5.95.

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GHOST TOWN ALBUM by Lambert Florin. Over 200 photos. Fascinating pictorial accounts of the gold mining towns of the Old West—and the men who worked them. Large format, 184 pages, profusely illustrated, originally published at \$12.50, new edition \$3.95.

ROCKS AND MINERALS OF CALIFORNIA compiled by Vinson Brown, David Allan and James Stark. This third revised edition will save you hours of time by the description and pictures of rocks and minerals found in this state. Color pictures with clearly developed keys show you how to identify what you have found and gives you the fine tools to increase your ability as a field collector. Paperback, well illustrated with photos, locality maps, charts and quadrangle map information. 200 pages, \$3.95.

BAJA CALIFORNIA OVERLAND by L. Burr Belden. Practical guide to Lower California as far as La Paz by auto with material gleaned from extensive study trip sponsored by Univ. of Calif. Includes things to see and accommodations. Paperback, \$1.95.

DESERT ANIMALS OF THE SOUTHWEST by Richard Clayton. Delightful for children and grown-ups, this little book includes sketches and concise descriptions of animals with accompanying footprints. Covers 38 creatures. Paperback, illustrated, 78 pages, \$1.95.

LOST MINES OF ARIZONA by Harold Weight. Covers the Lost Jabonero, lost mines of the Trigos, Buried Gold of Bicuner and others of southwestern Arizona. Paperback, \$2.00.

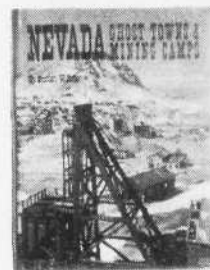
THE DESERT IS YOURS by Erle Stanley Gardner. This is the late author's fifth book written on the desert but the first that is devoted to the western desert of the United States. With parties of hunters and companions, he proves to be the true adventurer, combing the vast reaches of trackless land, and shows how the good outweighs the bad in the perils of the desert. Hardcover, well illustrated, 256 pages, \$7.50.

DEATH VALLEY GHOST TOWNS by Stanley Paher. Death Valley, today a National Monument, has in its environs the ghostly remains of many mines and mining towns. The author has also written of ghost towns in Nevada and Arizona and knows how to blend a brief outline of each of Death Valley's ghost towns with historic photos. For sheer drama, fact or fiction, it produces an enticing package for ghost town buffs. Paperback, illus., 9x12 format, 48 pages, \$1.95.

GEM MINERALS OF IDAHO by John Beckwith. Contains information on physical and optical characteristics of minerals; the history, lore, and fashioning of many gems. Also eleven rewarding field trips to every sort of collecting area. Slick paperback, maps and photos, 123 pages, \$2.95.

THE STERLING LEGEND by Estee Conatser. The story of the Lost Dutchman Mine is in a class of its own. Here the author presents the Jacob Walzer story in a realistic and plausible manner. An introduction by Karl von Mueller, and a map insert leaves the reader to draw his own conclusions between fact and fiction. Paperback, illustrated, 98 pages, \$4.00.

THE INDIANS AND I by Peter Odens. Intimate conversations with Indians by a compassionate author who writes in the style of Ernie Pyle. Paperback, illustrated, 89 pages, \$2.00.



NEVADA GHOST TOWNS AND MINING CAMPS by Stanley W. Paher. Covering all of Nevada's 17 counties, Paher has documented 575 mining camps, many of which have been erased from the earth. The book contains the greatest and most complete collection of historic photographs of Nevada ever published. This, coupled with his excellent writing and map, creates a book of lasting value. Large 9x11 format, 700 photographs, hardcover, 492 pages, \$15.00.

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MINES OF THE HIGH DESERT by Donald Dean Miller. Describes life at the New Dale, Virginia Dale, Supply and other early mines of the high desert country around Joshua Tree National Monument in California. Photos and map. Paperback, \$1.95.



BIRDS OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DESERTS by Gusse Thomas Smith. Thirty-one of the most commonly sighted birds of the Southwest are described and illustrated in 4-color artist drawings. Heavy paperback, 68 pages, \$3.95.

NEVADA LOST MINES AND HIDDEN TREASURES, compiled by Dave Basso. The Second-Edition is updated with photographs and a new look. Portions of U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps are provided to give the reader an idea of the general locale in which the specific story is centered. Paperback, 71 pages, \$2.50.

NEW MEXICO PLACE NAMES edited by T. M. Pearce. Lists and gives a concise history of the places, towns, former sites, mountains, mesas, rivers, etc., in New Mexico, including those settled by the early Spaniards. Good for treasure hunters, bottle collectors and history buffs. Paperback, 187 pages with more than 5000 names, \$2.45.

OLD MINES AND GHOST CAMPS OF CALIFORNIA, compiled by A. Ekman, I. H. Parker, W. H. Storms, H. W. Penniman and M. E. Dittmar. A lot of informative reading takes you county by county through the vast mining areas of the Mother Lode and adjoining rich properties. Paperback, photos, 144 pages, \$3.50.

FACETING FOR AMATEURS by Glenn and Martha Vargas. All aspect of the craft are covered in this book from selecting, buying, orienting before cutting, methods of obtaining the largest and most perfect stone from the rough material, to the ways of using the many different faceting machines on the market. Glenn Vargas is Lapidary Instructor, College of the Desert, Palm Desert, Calif., and a columnist for *Desert*. Hardcover, many illustrations, tables, formulas, 330 pages, \$15.00.

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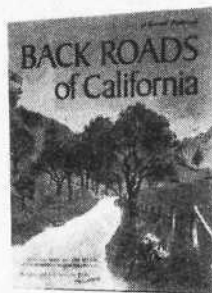
GHOST TOWNS AND MINING CAMPS OF CALIFORNIA by Remi Nadeau. The only good, hardcover book on the California ghost towns. We recommend it highly. \$7.50.

OUTDOOR SURVIVAL SKILLS by Larry Dean Olsen. This book had to be lived before it could be written. The author's mastery of primitive skills has made him confident that survival living need not be an ordeal once a person has learned to adjust. Chapters deal with building shelters, making fires, finding water, use of plants for food and medication. Buckram cover, well-illustrated, 188 pages, revised edition boasts of 96 4-color photos added. \$2.95.

PONDEROSA COUNTRY by Stanley W. Paher. A scenic and historic guide to Reno and vicinity, the author tells in words and pictures the many scenic byways and colorful country to be found within an hour or two of downtown "Casino Row." Various tours are outlined and a final chapter is devoted to a pictorial history of Reno. Paperback, 48 pages, 9x12 format, \$1.95.

ROCK DRAWINGS OF THE COSO RANGE by Campbell Grant, James Baird and J. Kenneth Pringle. A Maturango Museum publication, this book tells of sites of rock art in the Coso Range which, at 4000 feet, merges with the flatlands of the northern Mojave Desert. Paperback, illustrated, detailed drawings, maps, 144 pages, \$3.95.

THE GREAT AMERICAN WEST by James D. Horan. With over 650 illustrations, many in full color, this is the full western story from the days of the conquistadores to the 20th Century. Many rare photos never published before. Large 9x12 format, hardcover, 288 pages, originally published at \$10.00, now only \$4.95.



BACK ROADS OF CALIFORNIA by Earl Tholander and the Editors of *Sunset Books*. Early stagecoach routes, missions, remote canyons, old prospector cabins, mines, cemeteries, etc., are visited as the author travels and sketches the California Backroads. Through maps and notes, the traveler is invited to get off the freeways and see the rural and country lanes throughout the state. Hardcover, large format, unusually beautiful illustrations, 207 pages, \$10.95.

DESERT VACATIONS ARE FUN by Robert Needham. A complete, factual and interesting handbook for the desert camper. Valuable information on weather conditions, desert vehicles, campsites, food and water requirements. Information on desert wildlife, mines, ghost towns, and desert hobbies. Paperback, illustrated, 10 maps, 134 pages, \$3.95.

LOAFING ALONG DEATH VALLEY TRAILS by William Caruthers. Author Caruthers was a newspaper man and a ghost writer for early movie stars, politicians and industrialists. He "slowed down" long enough to move to Death Valley and there wrote his on-the-spot story that will take you through the quest for gold on the deserts of California and Nevada. Hardcover, old photos, 187 pages, \$4.25.

SOUTHWEST INDIAN CRAFT ARTS by Clara Lee Tanner. One of the best books on the subject, covering all phases of the culture of the Indians of the Southwest. Authentic in every way. Color and black and white illustrations, line drawings. Hardcover, 205 pages, \$15.00.

ON DESERT TRAILS by Randall Henderson, founder and publisher of *Desert Magazine* for 23 years. One of the first good writers to reveal the beauty of the mysterious desert areas. Henderson's experiences, combined with his comments on the desert of yesterday and today, make this a MUST for those who really want to understand the desert. 375 pages, illustrated. Hardcover, \$7.50.

LOST MINES OF THE GREAT SOUTHWEST by John D. Mitchell. The first of Mitchell's lost mine books is now available after having been out of print or years. Reproduced from the original copy and containing 54 articles based on accounts from people Mitchell interviewed. He spent his entire adult life investigating reports and legends of lost mines and treasures of the Southwest. Hardcover, illustrated, 175 pages, \$7.50.



TALES THE WESTERN TOMBSTONES TELL by Lambert Florin. The famous and infamous come back to life in this great photo history including missionary, mule driver, bad guy and blacksmith—what tales their tombstones tell. Large format, 192 pages, originally published at \$12.95, now only \$3.95.

LOST MINES & BURIED TREASURES ALONG THE OLD FRONTIER by John D. Mitchell. The second of Mitchell's books on lost mines which was out-of-print for many years. Many of these appeared in *Desert Magazine* years ago and these issues are no longer available. New readers will want to read these. Contains the original map first published with the book and one pinpointing the areas of lost mines. Mitchell's personal research and investigation has gone into the book. Hardcover, 240 pages \$7.50.

MOCKEL'S DESERT FLOWER NOTEBOOK by Henry and Beverly Mockel. The well-known painter of desert wildflowers has combined his four-color sketches and black and white photographs to describe in detail so the layman can easily identify wildflowers, both large and small. Microscopic detail makes this an outstanding book for identification. Special compressed fiber cover which will not stain. 54 full-color illustrations with 72 life-size drawings and 39 photographs, 316 pages, \$5.95.

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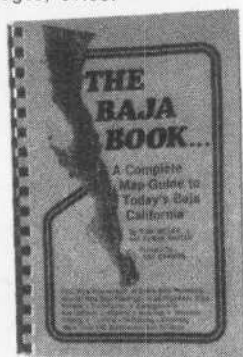
FLOWERS OF THE CANYON COUNTRY by Stanley L. Welsh, text; and Bill Ratcliffe, photographs. Brigham Young University Press. Two professionals have united their talents to present an informative, scholarly and artistic promotion of the beauty found in flowers and plants of vast regions of the Southwest. Paperback, 51 pages, \$2.95.

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BAJA CALIFORNIA by Choral Pepper. Packed in this comparatively small book is a world of facts about the land, the insects, vegetation, the seashore, the missionaries, vanished missions, lost treasures and strange stories, tall and true, of Baja California. Fascinating reading. Paperback, 126 pages, \$1.95.



THE BAJA BOOK, A Complete Map-Guide to Today's Baja California by Tom Miller and Elmar Baxter. Waiting until the new transpeninsular highway opened, the authors have pooled their knowledge to give every minute detail on gas stations, campgrounds, beaches, trailer parks, road conditions, boating, surfing, flying, fishing, beachcombing, in addition to a Baja Roadlog which has been broken into convenient two-mile segments. A tremendous package for every kind of recreationist. Paperback, 178 pages, illus., maps, \$7.95.

THE CAHUILLA INDIANS by Lucile Hooper. Compared to the large tribes of the West, the Cahuillas, although being comparatively small, play an important part in the history of Southern California. Customs, living habits, the cultures of this tribe are better appreciated by the author's insight. First published in 1920, and again in print. Paperback, large format, bibliography, 65 pages, \$2.50.

TREES OF THE WEST [Identified at a Glance] by Matilda Rogers, Photographs by Wynn Hammer. Miss Rogers has written graphic descriptions of all of the trees generally found in the Western area of the United States. Mr. Hammer has photographed them when in their prime. The result is a handbook that everyone can understand and enjoy. Paperback, illustrated, 126 pages, \$1.95.

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CAMPING AND CLIMBING IN BAJA by John Robinson. Contains excellent maps and photos. A guidebook to the Sierra San Pedro Martir and the Sierra Juarez of Upper Baja Calif. Much of this land is unexplored and unmapped still. Car routes to famous ranches and camping spots in palm-studded canyons with trout streams tempt weekend tourists who aren't up to hiking. Paperback, 96 pages, \$2.95.

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CORONADO'S CHILDREN by J. Frank Dobie. Originally published in 1930, this book about lost mines and buried treasures of the West is a classic and is as vital today as when first written. Dobie was not only an adventurer, but a scholar and a powerful writer. A combination of legends and factual background. Hardcover, 376 pages, \$3.95.

BURIED TREASURE & LOST MINES, by Frank Fish. One of the original treasure hunters provides data on 93 lost bonanzas, many of which he personally searched for. He died under mysterious circumstances in 1968 after leading an adventurous life. Illustrated with photos and maps. Paperback, 68 pages, \$2.00.

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COMMON EDIBLE & USEFUL PLANTS OF THE WEST by Muriel Sweet. A description with artist drawings of edible (and those not to touch) plants along with how Indians and pioneers used them. Paperback, 64 pages, \$1.50.

POISONOUS DWELLERS OF THE West by Natt Dodge. Anyone walking through the back country should have and study this book, especially families with children. Illustrates and describes which dwellers are poisonous and which are not. Slick paperback, 40 pages, 75 cents.



FROSTY, A Raccoon to Remember by Harriett E. Weaver. The only uniformed woman on California's State Park Ranger crews for 20 years, Harriett Weaver shares her hilarious and heart-warming experiences of being a "mother" to an orphaned baby raccoon. A delightful book for all ages. Illustrated with line-drawings by Jennifer O. Dewey, hard cover, 156 pages, \$5.95

DEAD MEN DO TELL TALES by Lake Erie Schaefer. A sequel to **BURIED TREASURE & LOST MINES** by Frank Fish, the author knew Fish for many years and claims he was murdered. Her book adds other information on alleged lost bonanzas, plus reasons why she thinks Fish did not die a natural death as stated by the authorities. Paperback, illus., 80 pages, \$3.00.

ROCKS AND MINERALS, A golden Nature Guide. More than an aid to identifying rocks and minerals, this book will also help the reader understand the importance of rocks and minerals in our daily lives. Tells where to look for rocks and minerals. Compact paperback, profusely illus., \$1.25.

GEM TRAILS IN CALIFORNIA by A. L. Abbott. This compact little book can easily be carried while hiking or riding and combines detailed map drawings with pictures. In addition to gem and mineral names with their specific locations, there are other leads to nearby ghost towns, campgrounds and recreation areas. Paperback, illus., \$2.95.

HOPI KACHINA DOLLS [With a Key to Their Identification], by Harold S. Colton. Kachina dolls are neither toys nor idols, but aids to teaching religion and tradition. This is a definitive work on the subject, describing the meaning, the making and the principal features of 266 varieties of Kachina dolls. Line drawings of each variety, plus color and b/w photos make it a complete guide to learn more of the richness of American Indian culture. Paperback, 150 pages, \$3.45.



AMERICAN INDIAN FOOD AND LORE by Carolyn Neithammer. The original Indian plants used for foods, medicinal purposes, shelter, clothing, etc., are described in detail in this fascinating book. Common and scientific names, plus descriptions of each plant and unusual recipes. Large format, profusely illus., 191 pages, \$4.95.

GEM TRAILS OF ARIZONA by Bessie W. Simpson. This field guide is prepared for the hobbyist and almost every location is accessible by car or pickup accompanied by maps to show sandy roads, steep rocky hills, etc., as cautions. Laws regarding collecting on Federal and Indian land outlined. Paperback, 88 pages, illus., \$3.00.

SPEAKING OF INDIANS by Bernice Johnston. An authority on the Indians of the Southwest, the author has presented a concise well-written book on the customs, history, crafts, ceremonies and what the American Indian has contributed to the white man's civilization. A MUST for both students and travelers touring the Indian Country. Heavy paperback, illus., \$2.50.

THE WEEKEND GOLD MINER by A. H. Ryan. An electronic physicist "bitten by the gold bug," the author has written a concise and informative book for amateur prospectors telling where and how gold is found and how it is separated and tested, all based on his own practical experience. Paperback, 40 pages, \$1.50.

THE WEEKEND TREASURE HUNTER by A. H. Ryan. A companion book to his **Weekend Gold Miner**, this volume is also concise and packed with information on what to look for and what to do with your treasure after you have found it. Subjects range from Beach Combing to Sunken Treasures, Paperback, 76 pages, \$1.95.

EXPLORING DEATH VALLEY by Ruth Kirk. Good photos and maps with time estimates from place to place and geology, natural history and human interest information included. Paperback, \$2.25.

BAJA [California, Mexico] by Cliff Cross. Updated to include the new transpeninsula highway, the author has outlined in detail all of the services, precautions, outstanding sights and things to do in Baja. Maps and photos galore, with large format. 170 pages, \$4.95.

MEXICO Guide by Cliff Cross. All new, revised edition with excellent information of trailer parks, hotels, camping space; tips on border crossing, shopping, fishing, hunting, etc., as well as the history, culture, and geography. 210 maps, 675 photos, 195 pages, \$4.95.

HELLDORADO by William Breakenridge. One of the most famous law enforcement officers of the Old West describes his life and gives first-hand accounts of the famous outlaws and lawmen he knew. First published in 1928 and long out-of-print, now available. Hardcover, illus., 1883 map of Arizona Territory. 225 pages, \$7.50.

TRAVEL GUIDE TO ARIZONA by Editors of *Sunset Books*. New, revised edition with beautiful photographs, descriptive material, history and up-to-date maps make this an excellent tour guide to both the northern and southern sections of Arizona. Large Sunset format, paperback, \$2.95.

OWYHEE TRAILS by Mike Hanley and Ellis Lucia. The authors have teamed to present the boisterous past and intriguing present of this still wild corner of the West sometimes called the I-O-N, where Idaho, Oregon and Nevada come together. Hardcover, 225 pages, \$7.95.



30,000 MILES IN MEXICO by Nell Murbarger. Joyous adventures of a trip by pick-up camper made by two women from Tijuana to Guatemala. Folky and entertaining, as well as instructive to others who might make the trip. Hardcover, 309 pages, \$6.00.

LAS VEGAS [As It Began—As It Grew] by Stanley W. Paher. Here is the first general history of early Las Vegas ever to be published. The author was born and raised there in what, to many is considered a town synonymous with lavish gambling and unabashed night life. Newcomers to the area, and even natives themselves, will be surprised by the facts they did not know about their town. Western Americana book lovers will appreciate the usefulness of this book. You don't have to gamble on this one! Hardcover, large format, loaded with historical photos, 180 pages, \$10.95.

A LIGHT-HEARTED LOOK AT THE DESERT by Chuck Waggin. A delightfully written and illustrated book on desert animals which will be appreciated by both children and adults. The sketches are excellent and, although factual, descriptions make the animals seem like human beings. Large format, heavy quality paper, 94 pages, \$1.95.

BOTTLE RUSH U.S.A. by Lynn Blumenstein. An excellent book for identifying old bottles with photographs of over 700 items and current price list. Background bottle information. 184 pages, paperback, \$4.25.

A NATURALIST'S DEATH VALLEY by Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger. In this revised third edition, Dr. Jaeger covers and uncovers some of the mysteries of this once humid, and now arid trough. He tells of the Indians of Death Valley, the mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, insects, trees, wild flowers and fossils. Paperback, 66 pages, \$1.50.

UTAH GEM TRAILS by Bessie W. Simpson. The casual rockhound or collector interested in collecting petrified wood, fossils, agate and crystals will find this guide most helpful. The book does not give permission to collect in areas written about, but simply describes and maps the areas. Paperback, illustrated, maps, \$3.50.



DESERT, The American Southwest by Ruth Kirk. Combining her knowledge of the physical characteristics of the land, and man's relation to the desert from the prehistoric past to the probable future, with her photographer's eye and her enthusiasm for a strange and beautiful country, the result of Ruth Kirk's work is an extraordinarily perceptive account of the living desert. Highly recommended. Hardcover, beautifully illustrated, 334 pages, \$10.00.

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LAND OF POCO TIEMPO by Charles F. Lummis. A reprint of the famous writer and historian of his adventures among the Indians of New Mexico. Lummis was one of the foremost writers of the West. Paperback, 236 pages, \$2.45.

COLORFUL DESERT WILDFLOWERS by Grace and Onas Ward. Segregated into categories of red, blue, white and yellow for easier identification, there are 190 four-color photos of flowers found in the Mojave, Colorado and Western Arizona deserts, all of which also have common and scientific names plus descriptions. Heavy, slick paperback, \$4.50.

JEEP TRAILS TO COLORADO GHOST TOWNS by Robert L. Brown. An illustrated, detailed, informal history of life in the mining camps deep in the almost inaccessible mountain fastness of the Colorado Rockies. 58 towns are included as examples of the vigorous struggle for existence in the mining camps of the West. 239 pages, illustrated, end sheet map, hardcover, \$7.95.

RELICS OF THE WHITEMAN by Marvin and Helen Davis. A logical companion to *Relics of the Redman*, this book brings out a marked difference by showing in its illustrations just how "suddenly modern" the early West became after the arrival of the white man. The difference in artifacts typifies the historical background in each case. The same authors tell how and where to collect relics of these early days, tools needed, and how to display and sell valuable pieces. Paperback, well illustrated in color and b/w, 63 pages, \$3.95.

FANTASIES OF GOLD by E. B. Sayles. During his search for archeological finds for more than 30 years, the author was exposed to the rumors and legends of lost gold and treasures. After his retirement as curator of the Arizona State Museum, he classified and delved into these still unsolved mysteries. An interesting and informative book on lost bonanzas and legends, many of which have never been published. Hardcover, well illustrated, 135 pages, \$6.50.

TIMBERLINE ANCIENTS with photos by David Muench and text by Darwin Lambert. Bristlecone pines are the oldest living trees on earth. Photographer David Muench brings them to life in all their fascinating forms, and Lambert's prose is like poetry. One of the most beautiful pictorials ever published. An ideal gift. Large 11x14 format, hardcover, heavy slick paper, 128 4-color photographs, 125 pages, \$22.00.

THE MAN WHO WALKED THROUGH TIME by Colin Fletcher. An odyssey of a man who lived simply and in solitude for two months as he hiked through the Grand Canyon. Combining his physical prowess with Thoreau-like observations, the author has written a book of great magnitude. Hardcover, illustrated, 239 pages, \$6.95.

HOW AND WHERE TO PAN GOLD by Wayne Winters. Convenient paperback handbook with information on staking claims, panning and recovering placer gold. Maps and drawings. \$2.00.



GHOST TOWNS OF THE NORTHWEST by Norman D. Weis. The ghost-town country of the Pacific Northwest including trips to many little-known areas, is explored in this first-hand factual and interesting book. Excellent photography. Best book to date on ghost towns of the Northwest. Maps, hardcover, heavy slick paper, 319 pages, \$7.95.

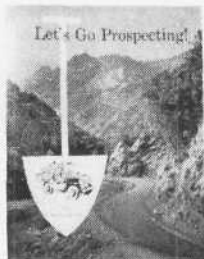
A FIELD GUIDE TO THE GEMS AND MINERALS OF MEXICO by Paul Willard Johnson. Tips on food, maps and information, driving and trailering in Mexico, Border regulations, wrapping specimens of gems and minerals and all about your proposed mining venture are covered. Paperback, many good maps and illustrations, 96 pages, \$2.00.

HAPPY WANDERER TRIPS by Slim Barnard. Well-known TV stars, Henrietta and Slim Barnard have put together a selection of their trips throughout the West from their Happy Wanderer travel shows. Books have excellent maps, history, cost of lodging, meals, etc. Perfect for families planning weekends. Both books are large format, heavy paperback, 150 pages each and \$2.95 each. Volume One covers California and Volume Two Arizona, Nevada and Mexico. WHEN ORDERING STATE WHICH VOLUME.

LOST MINES OF DEATH VALLEY by Harold Weight. This is a new approach to the enigma of Death Valley Scotty's life and legends and gives additional insight into the Lost Gunsight and Breyfogle bonanzas, plus other Death Valley mysteries. Paperback, historic photographs, reference material, 86 pages, \$2.50.

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MINES OF JULIAN by Helen Ellsberg. The towns of Julian and Banner located above the Anza-Borrego State Park in San Diego County, are little known for their mining history. It did happen, though, some 20 years after the Mother Lode rush. The author's remarkable ability to glean this information from old-timers and digging into newspapers and old records makes this a skillfully blended story. Paperback, historic photographs, reference material, 68 pages, \$1.95.



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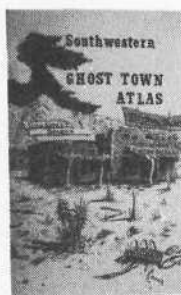
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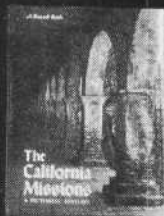
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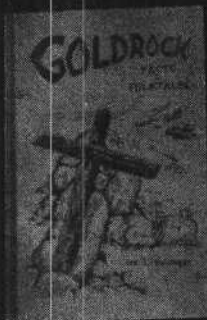
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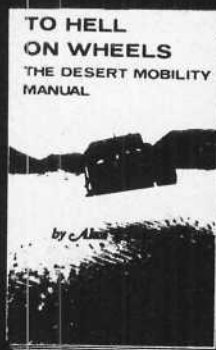
THE NEVADA DESERT by Sessions S. Wheeler. Provides information on Nevada's state parks, historical monuments, recreational areas and suggestions for safe, comfortable travel in the remote sections of western America. Paperback, illus., 168 pages, \$2.95.



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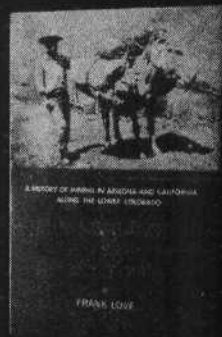
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*The western rim of
Dead Horse Point
is not entirely walled,
so visitors should exercise caution.
There is a sheer drop
of some 500 feet on all sides
of the jutting point.*

yards wide, with sheer drops on either side of this "neck," then widening to a flat-topped peninsula some 40 acres in size.

Then place this slender, lofty peninsula with its sheer sandstone walls on a steeply tapering base of crumbled, red-hued rock still more hundreds of feet thick. Beneath these massive talus slopes visualize a broad terrace of dark red sand flats, shading into blue-gray strata of ancient, fossil-rich seabottom limestone at the brink of still more vertical cliffs that drop five and six hundred feet to the green-bordered, sediment-brown waters of the Colorado River.

Then picture this entire knife-thin point of rock and its terraced base surrounded on all sides by an immense and extremely colorful maze of deep and complex canyons that cut into geological strata that penetrate far into the Paleozoic era and are some 300 million years old. And beyond this magnificent maze, visualize still more elevated mesalands and two distinct mountain ranges, with the entire scene canopied by a deep blue sky flecked with puffy, flat-bottomed clouds. Here, indeed, is a scene to rival Grand Canyon.

POINT

by F. A. BARNES

But the name? Why such a grim name for such an outstandingly beautiful and unique geological feature?

To understand this, pan back through time to the late 1800s, and focus in on the "neck" of this slender peninsula of land that is about a half mile back from its tip. Then watch the action as a small band of cowboys herds a bunch of fractious wild mustangs past the neck and out onto the point.

As the frightened mustangs plunge through a wide gate in the wire fence that is stretched across the narrow neck, the

horsemen halt their sweating, dusty mounts and two jump off to close and secure the barbed wire gate. They all then settle into the shade of nearby rocks and trees for a well-earned break and a bite to eat. Rounding up wild horses on this high and dry mesaland is hot and tiring work, but horses are needed.

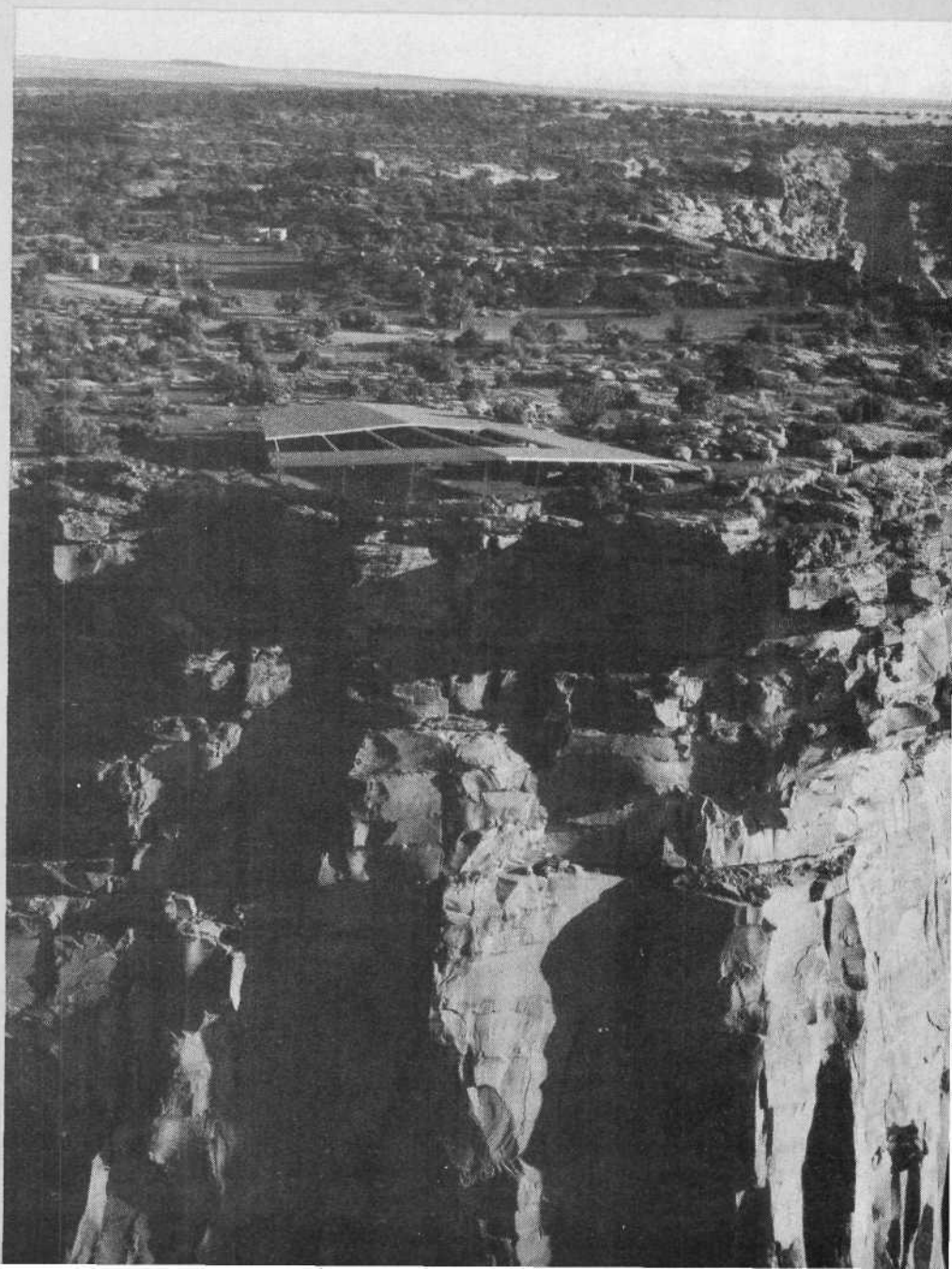
Ever since they were first introduced to the North American continent by Spanish explorers, herds of wild horses have proliferated across the western plains and less barren desertlands until they constitute an invaluable resource to the pioneer settlers who are striving to wrest a living from this beautiful but forbidding land.

The tip of Dead Horse Point is very impressive when seen from the air. The shade pavilion is easily spotted from a plane because of its size and color, but the rock wall around the rim of the point blends with the terrain and is hardly noticeable.

The afternoon is spent cutting prime mustangs from the captive herd. A few are "broken" on the spot for riding. Still others are chosen and cut out of the herd for later breaking or sale.

The busy day ends, and the weary cowboys head for a line camp with their newly-acquired horses. The remaining wild mustangs—the culls and a couple of intractable stallions—are left behind, their heads drooping with exhaustion from the ordeal of the roundup out on the sheer-walled point.

And the cowboys, whether by oversight or intention will never be known, leave the gate closed, thus isolating the





remaining horses from any source of water—except the Colorado River some 1900 feet below.

Of course, these pitiful roundup survivors died, most of them slowly from thirst and exhaustion, but a few quickly as they plunged, thirst-crazed, from the cliffs of Dead Horse Point in a frantic attempt to reach the water they could see and smell so far below.

So, in a way, Dead Horse Point is a monument to man's sometime carelessness about the welfare of the other lives that share this planet with him.

Today, that fence across the neck just back from the tip of Dead Horse Point is long since gone. Instead, a paved road takes visitors out to the developed tip for breathtaking views down into and across the 360-degree panorama that has attracted so many people over recent years. And today, visitors are protected from the sheer cliff edges by low rock walls around the point and at other popular rim overlooks.

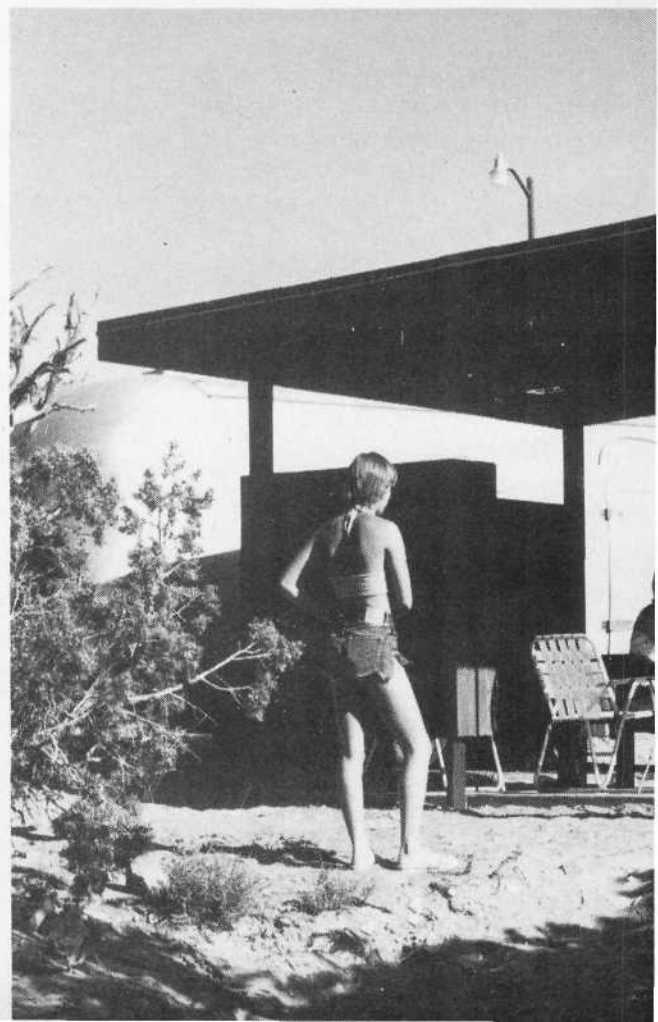
Dead Horse Point State Park offers primarily a panoramic viewpoint of unsurpassable beauty and complexity, plus an echoing of early human history. But these have proven so popular that annual visita-

Above: The sheer size of Dead Horse Point can only be appreciated from afar.

This view of the jutting peninsula, in the left center, is from nearby Island in the Sky, a part of Canyonlands National Park. The snowcapped La Sal Mountains are in the distance.

Right: Dead Horse Point State Park offers an excellent campground with water, electricity, shade, tables, stoves and a tent slab at each site.

All the water used in the park is hauled from the town of Moab.



tion reached 68,300 in 1973. Of these, almost 8,000 stayed overnight in the excellent campground that is just over a mile from the tip of the point.

At one time, not too long ago, it was a long day's trip out to Dead Horse Point from nearby Moab, Utah. Then, it was necessary to drive some 17 miles north of Moab, take a long and tedious, rough and dusty dirt road to the west, then south to the scenic outlook. The return trip traced the same route.

Now, however, the popular overlook is less than 33 miles from Moab, an easy hour's drive, and the road is paved all the way. And there is a still shorter way back to Moab for those who have four-wheel-drive vehicles. Six miles back from the tip of Dead Horse Point, a dirt road that becomes a steep, rough 4WD trail heads east through pinyon-juniper woodland, then down picturesque Long Canyon to the Colorado River. Here, a paved road goes upriver to Moab.

The route to Dead Horse Point State Park from the east or west is via Interstate 70 (U.S. 6 & 50), then south on U.S. 163 from Crescent Junction, which is some 52 miles west of the Utah-Colorado border.



Below Dead Horse Point, the Colorado River bends in a gigantic gooseneck. Directly below the point, yet still hundreds of feet above the river, a four-wheel-drive trail heads for nearby Canyonlands National Park.

From the south, southwest or southeast, U.S. 163 goes to Moab. The turnoff to Dead Horse Point, and the northern part of Canyonlands National Park, is 11 miles north of Moab, or 21 miles south of Crescent Junction.

The paved road to Dead Horse Point first enters a scenic, rock-walled canyon, then climbs steeply onto the tilted mesa-land. This elevated, cliff-bound plateau once had herds of deer and wild horses grazing its broad, grassy meadows, but today only an occasional white-faced Hereford can be seen. Dirt side roads and trails lead to other scenic areas, to abandoned oil well drill sites or old corals. Few of these side roads are passable for any distance to family cars, but offer good exploring for four-wheel-drive vehicles.

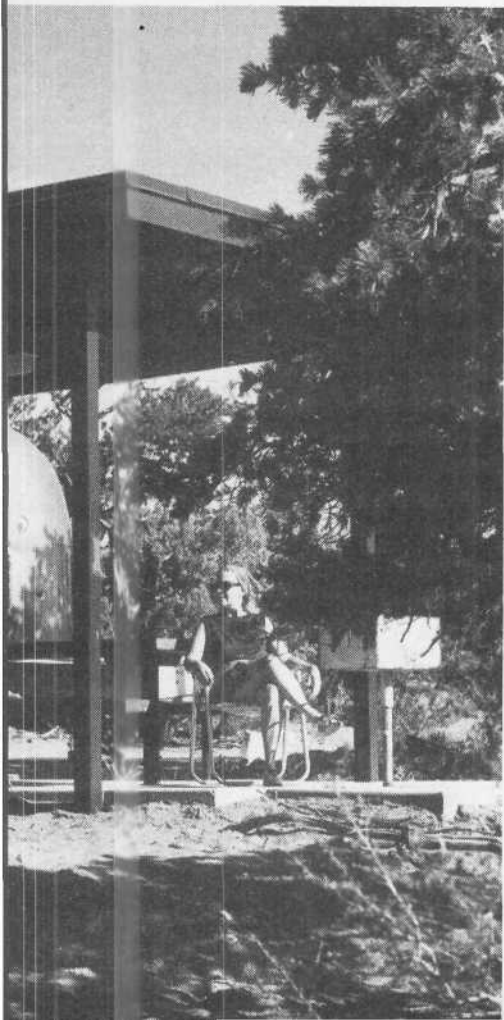
Just beyond The Knoll, a rocky high point on the plateau that the road is crossing, the paved road angles left toward Dead Horse Point, and a dirt road continues straight toward the Island in the Sky district of Canyonlands National Park. Just over six miles beyond this junction,

on the paved fork, is the entrance station to Dead Horse Point State Park.

Just beyond the entrance station, the park visitor center offers a museum with geological and archeological displays, an information desk, restrooms and a first glimpse of the scenic beauty that is visible in its full grandeur from farther out on the point. Here, too, a paved walkway with protective wall can be taken around the promontory in front of the visitor center.

As the road continues toward the point, a spur enters the Kayenta Campground, a full-developed camp with paved road and pull-outs, 21 sites, restrooms and a trailer hold-tank dump station, all set among luxuriant pinyon and juniper trees. Each site has water, a paved slab, fireplace, table and lockable storage cabinet beneath a shade-pavilion. The pavilion is electrically lighted and has an electrical outlet for visitor use. Each site also has a prepared tent pad.

Just before the road reaches the very tip of Dead Horse Point, it passes the old



Continued on Page 46



Above: This unusual double arch is on the gravel road from Quartzsite to Bouse. Eileen Workman stands under one of the arches. Above right: Rockhounds collecting jasper and fire agate.

QUART



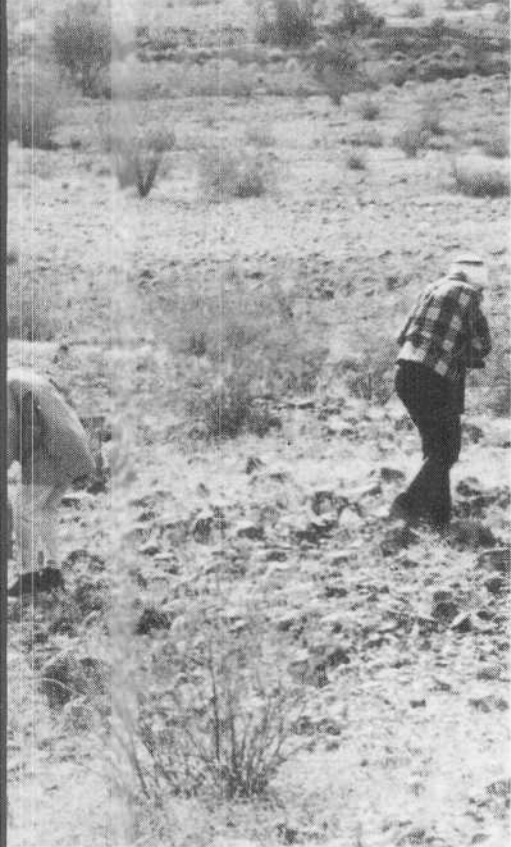
While hiking toward the double arch, the author was surprised to see three of the largest desert bighorn sheep he has ever encountered. They were surprisingly unafraid and kept stopping and looking back.

TEN YEARS AGO, Quartzsite was a small wayside station on old U.S. Highway 60 where motorists from Phoenix had to slow down and sometimes stopped for gasoline as they headed for the Colorado River and California, 25 miles westward.

At that time, the population of the Arizona community was about 50 people, consisting of a sprinkling of retired residents, a few merchants and some miners and prospectors.

Today, motorists intent only on getting from one city to another, speed past the town whose main street lies at the bottom of the Quartzsite off-ramp on Interstate 10. And in the past 10 years, only 450 new residents have moved to the area, making a total permanent population of 500. However, Quartzsite is NOT stagnating, but is one of the most prosperous small communities in Arizona.

The actual population of Quartzsite today averages 5,000 people, with the lowest residency during the summer months of July and August. And, during



QUARTZSITE

by JACK PEPPER

the week-long 8th Annual Quartzsite Pow Wow, the town was inundated with 60,000 visitors from throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

I asked an old-time prospector, who was sitting in front of the general store, what was the secret of the success of Quartzsite. As he started to answer my question, a motor home, whose value I estimated at a minimum of \$20,000, stopped and a middle-aged couple got out and entered the store to buy supplies.

"Secret? It ain't no secret," the old-timer replied, as he stopped whittling a piece of ironwood and lit his pipe. I've been looking for gold and silver in these hills for most of my life. Found just enough to keep me going and in good health.

"But the real gold bonanza for us folks has been here for hundreds of years. Guess most of us just took it for granted and didn't see the value of the color. That is, we didn't until it was discovered by the city people."

The "real gold bonanza" is a combina-

Above: Not all tailgaters are amateurs. Professional "tailgaters" have huge vans in which they live and carry their wares, going from one exhibition to another. Since they have little "overhead," one can often find good bargains.



A veteran rockhound inspects a piece of onyx.



Many of the exhibitors at the Pow Wow sold Indian jewelry. Cost of authentic Indian jewelry has tripled in the past two years.

tion of an abundance of semi-precious rocks, ideal weather most of the year, wide open and mostly unrestricted deserts and mountains, historic sites and ghost towns within a hundred-mile-radius, and the nearby Colorado River. Quartzsite is also located just off an interstate freeway system where Phoenix can be reached in less than two hours and San Diego and Los Angeles in six hours.

These ingredients have gradually been discovered during the past 10 years by refugees from harsh winter climates and who, like migratory birds, flock south so they can enjoy the warm sun. They mingle with retired, but active, couples from the east who headquarter nine months of the year at Quartzsite and during the summer travel through the northern states.

Carrying two boxes of supplies, the couple from the motor home emerged from the general store. I asked them if it was their first trip to the area. They said it was their second.

"We first came out five years ago when I was still in business in Michigan," the

husband explained. "We were on vacation and in a passenger car and visited some friends in Los Angeles. They were rockhounds and insisted we accompany them for a weekend trip here. I didn't know a rock from a piece of cement, but after two days we were hooked.

"So, when I retired last year we sold our home, bought this motor home and headed west. Best investment I ever made."

I asked why they came to this isolated area, rather than staying at more lavish places in Southern California.

"We came out here to get away from crowds and to roam where and when we pleased. Folks in Arizona are friendly, there's no smog and little restrictions with lots of wide open land. We've been rockhounding the past week, but now we're headed for the Colorado River to fish. Heard there may be gold in the streams, so I bought a gold pan. Never used one before, but I'll give it a try."

During the weekends, Quartzsite is also a haven for families from the metropolitan areas of Southern California.

Most families have campers and either tow dune buggies or carry trail bikes. Many come in four-wheel-drive vehicles. An increasing number of young couples come by passenger car with small tents and sleeping bags. This brings up another unique attraction: you have a choice of where and how you want to camp.

Within the immediate vicinity of Quartzsite, there are trailer parks and mobile home sites which provide complete services and hookups for visitors. All of the parks have shower and laundry facilities and many have clubhouses, community centers and recreational areas for horseshoes, shuffleboard and playgrounds for children. Prices for accommodations depend upon amount of services offered.

Many of the semi-permanent residents set up their equipment for lapidary work or wood carving next to their mobile homes or trailers. When not working on their projects, they exchange ideas, trade their finished products, or head for the back country to find new material for working. Noise is kept at a minimum and riding of trail bikes within the parks is prohibited.

However, you are not restricted to staying within the parks. If you really want to get away from civilization, there are thousands of acres surrounding Quartzsite which (with the exception of posted mining claims and a few ranches where privacy must NOT be violated) are administered by the Bureau of Land Management and are open to the public at no charge.

I timed my visit during the second week of February so I could attend the 8th Annual Quartzsite Pow Wow. I spent the first day-and-a-half at the Pow Wow and the following days rockhounding, exploring abandoned mines and visiting historic sites and ghost towns in the area.

Eight years ago, the residents of Quartzsite formed the Quartzsite Improvement Association, a non-profit organization to sponsor the first Rock and Hobby Show. The first year, there were 27 tailgaters. This year, there were 457 tailgaters outside, plus dozens of exhibitors in the main community building which was built from proceeds from previous Pow Wows.

Vern Reese, operator of a trailer park, and one of the original sponsors, says it is one of the largest rock and hobby shows in the West and that spaces are booked

months in advance prior to the February show.

Exhibits ranged from Indian jewelry displays inside the main building where a silver and turquoise Navajo squash blossom necklace sold for \$2,500, to tailgaters at the outside area where you could purchase semi-precious stones for anywhere from \$5.00 to \$100.00, and where rocks of all kinds were for sale for 25 cents and up.

Specimens from the Southwest, Africa, the Far East, Mexico, South America and China were on display, either for sale or trade. One exhibitor was selling gold nuggets from Alaska and the Mother Lode Country, while next to him you could buy nostalgic political campaign buttons. Wood carvings, beads, tinted glass, gold pans, metal detectors, antiques, original paintings, prints, ceramics, tumblers, lapidary equipment, and objects and artifacts *ad infinitum* were being displayed, sold and traded.

Many rockhounds have added another hobby to their recreation schedule—the collecting and polishing of ironwood. The hardy desert ironwood tree (*Olneya Tesota*) is found in washes in the Colorado Desert, Sonora, Lower California and Arizona.

Indians once used the slivers of ironwood for arrows and the seeds were a source of food. Prospectors found the wood excellent for campfires and during the months from May through August, when the purple flowers and flat seed pods appear, their burros had a feast.

Although the ironwood tree is extremely hard and lives for hundreds of years, it eventually falls prey to the parasitic mistletoe which attaches itself to the tree limbs and actually strangles it to death. As the ironwood is being strangled, it attempts to “breathe” by twisting and turning—thus creating the unusual and beautiful designs of the wood.

Ironwood buffs have a cardinal rule. They do NOT disturb or saw either the live or dead trees. Rather, they collect the dead branches and roots which can be found around the trees.

Some ironwood artists combine small pieces of the wood to form woodscapes and animals, while others take one limb or root and, by cutting, shaping, polishing and buffing, create free forms or replicas of desert animals and birds. (See *Desert*, February, 1970.)

I spent my last day delving into the history of Quartzsite and photographing



Bob Crabbe holds a roughly-cut piece of ironwood in his right hand, and a finished product in his left hand. The hardy wood glistens under a hand-rubbed finish.

two historic sites in the immediate vicinity of the town. One was the adobe ruins of old Fort Tyson and the other the monument to Hadji Ali—otherwise known as “Hi Jolly.”

Many articles and books have been written about Lieutenant Edward Fitzgerald Beale who, in 1857, convinced then Secretary of War Jefferson Davis that camels would make perfect beasts of burden to cross the deserts of the West. Beale went to North Africa and brought back a score of the dromedaries and hired Hadji Ali as the chief camel boss. Since Hadji Ali was too much of a tongue twister, the camel boss was called Hi Jolly.

The camels loved mules, but the mules and the mule skinner hated the camels so the experiment ended in failure. The camels were set loose to roam the desert, and Hi Jolly became a gold prospector.

Quartzsite is on the site of old Fort Tyson, which was a privately-built bastion in 1856 as a protection against Indians. Since there were wells in the area, it soon became a watering stop and stage


station on the road from Ehrenberg on the Colorado River to Prescott.

A small boom developed in 1897 when mining flourished for a short time. During its heyday, there were three stores, two saloons and a post office. When the mining activity ceased, Tyson Wells became a ghost town until mining was once again resumed and the post office reopened. Postal regulations prohibited the re-use of a former name, so the new name was called Quartzsite.

According to *Arizona Place Names*, an authoritative book published by the University of Arizona Press, a Martha Summerhayes (whose marital status and occupation was not revealed) visited the area in 1875 and described the place as being the most melancholy and uninviting that she had seen, saying that it “reeks of everything unclean, morally and physically . . .”

It's a sure bet that the prosperous merchants and happy residents of Quartzsite and its thousands of visitors are not planning to erect a monument for (Miss, Mrs., Ms.?) Martha Summerhayes. □





*Lovely Calf Creek Falls,
2-3/4 miles from campground,
drops over a cliff
to fall in a misty
spray 500 feet below.*

ESCALANTE COUNTRY

by E. C. HOWARD

WHEN MORMON pioneers entered what was then known as "Potato Valley" in 1875, it was because Church Elders had chosen that location for colonizing in South Central Utah. The land appeared suitable for agriculture, with good water flowing from the high mountains to the north of the proposed settlement.

The small colony of settlers thought it proper to name their "town" Escalante, after Father Escalante, who had passed that way almost 100 years before in 1776.

They had little time, nor the inclination to explore the entire region, beyond what land was necessary to pasture their cattle and cultivate their fields. The land proved to be productive, and although life for them was filled with hardship and privation in the beginning, the small settlement prospered.

As Escalante grew larger, the people, needing more land, explored the surrounding country and became aware that they were in the center of a vast area, colossal in size, startling in color, magni-

ficent beyond imagination and unique in its land forms.

The town is situated on the south slope of land which rises to meet the great forested peaks of Dixie National Forest, the largest National Forest in Utah, with elevations from 6,000 to 10,577 feet.

Four outstanding geologic features encompass this area; Aquarius Plateau on the approximate north boundary of Dixie National Forest, The Kaiparowits Plateau which residents call "their 50 mile mountain," on the west rim of Escalante River basin, a colossal formation, The Water-pocket Fold on the east, and finally, the Canyon of the Colorado River on the south, which is now Lake Powell.

Nestled within this rough outline are superbly forested mountains, plunging canyons, rippling waterfalls, cool, clear streams and lakes. In the low country are canyons with soaring walls, gold-dusted by the sun, that hide arches and natural bridges, and locations where pre-Columbian man left petroglyphs and the re-

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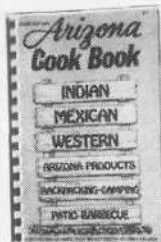
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mains of his dwellings.

In the canyons and along high cliffs are weird formations that are a photographer's delight, as is the high country when fall frost turns the aspen gold, and leaves of oak, cottonwood and maple trees flaunt orange and russett hues in a mad display, before swirling winds carry them away to spill over the land like turned-over paint pots.

Escalante economy is based largely on livestock, lumber operation and tourism. The town retains much of its rustic charm in the old, brick buildings erected in the late 1800s and early 1900s, trimmed with carved wood around the eaves, porches and windows. Some have been restored and are lived in, side by side with new modern homes. About 800 people make up the population of this new-old village. North-south U.S. Highway 89, then east via Utah State Highway 12 through Bryce Canyon National Park will take you into the heart of Escalante Country.

When summer temperatures prevail on the Escalante desert, national forest locations are cool and entice local residents and vacationing visitors to use the developed campgrounds in a woodland setting. Forty-seven lakes and streams offer excellent fishing, boating, swimming and picnicking. Scenic drives to the top of the mountain ranges display a panorama of magnificent canyons and timber-rich slopes.

Nothing there that interests you? How about hiking? Choose your place; red-rock and slick-rock country, deep canyons or alpine meadows. Mountain climbing is not for everyone, but there are some challenging situations throughout Escalante Country.

Petrified forests? There are locations where you may look, but not collect wood,

such as the one not too far from town which is scheduled for development as a state park. Of course, the Antiquities Act is enforced here as it is everywhere. A limited amount of petrified wood can be had at the Wolverine Collecting Area (See B.L.M. map.)

Jeeping is your thing? Some roads are signed as suitable only for 4WD vehicles, and they are just that, for deep sand and rock slides prevail on those back roads. Local ranchers or the Bureau of Land Management have no objection to your exploring the back country if—you stay on established routes, leave a clean camp, carry out your trash, (or any you may find), respect private property whether it is posted or not, and remember the rule of the range about gates. Close them after you if you find them closed, leave open if you find them open.

The following five scenic tours, using Escalante as a base for exploring, are possible by passenger car for a do-it-yourself trip, but by no means do they begin to cover the variety of activities and scenic locations in Escalante Country.

Calf Creek Recreation Area—Take road east from Escalante to Boulder. This is an extremely scenic and photogenic drive as it passes through a pink and white world of sandstone cliffs, canyons, ledges and across the upper Escalante River to the BLM campgrounds at the Calf Creek Recreation site. There are a limited number of spaces suitable for campers, tenting or small trailers. Because of the narrow confines of the canyon, large trailers might have difficulty getting in and out. A large parking area at the entrance may be used while hiking the falls trail.

The trailhead to beautiful Lower Calf Creek Falls is located about center of campground, a 2-3/4-mile hike up canyon on a good trail. Deep, perpendicular walls enclose this hushed world where the sound of running water follows one up the canyon until you hear the thunder of the falls, long before you see it.

North from Boulder—Dixie National Forest Road to Grover—Visit the Anasazi Indian Village State Park in Boulder. It is on the main highway and is an extremely interesting site where an entire ancient village is in the process of restoration.

A graded road winds up the mountains to 9200-foot elevation. Ponderosa pine, spruce and other evergreens mix with aspen midway on the slopes until, at the

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extreme high point, only aspens remain in dense stands surrounded by alpine meadows.

A viewpoint at the summit unrolls a magnificent panorama of land, now rising, now falling, across Capitol Reef National Park and the Waterpocket Fold, until your eyes finally sweep up the sides of the Henry Mountain range 75 miles away.

Three National Forest campgrounds are located near the road for easy access. Oak Creek, Pleasant Creek and Single-tree, all with improved facilities, are among towering pines. National Forest camps are fee use areas, and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

Road North out of Escalante—Posy Lake—Hell's Backbone—Good, graded dirt road climbs the western side of Dixie National Forest. Pinyon-juniper ecosystem on lower elevations, ponderosa pines, blue spruce, mountain ash, maple and gambel oak are established around waterways and lakes that abound in this area. Some good fishing lakes and streams are accessible by 4WD only.

Posy Lake turnoff is signed and swings left off main road, an excellent spot for a lunch picnic or just relaxing a bit, even some fishing. Not a large lake, but a small jewel surrounded by aspens and conifers that reflect in the blue water.

Backtrack two miles to main road and on to Hell's Backbone bridge above Death Hollow Canyon. The bridge is built over a narrow sliver of rock and connects two mountains. Mule skinnners, who packed ore and supplies up out of the mass of sharp pinnacles over narrow trails in pioneer days, coined the names to describe their feelings about the place.

Blue Spruce campground, just before reaching Hell's Backbone, is a Forest Service facility with Pine Creek running through it. Fishing, fire-grills and tables are available. Good rock collecting area.

Hole-in-the-Rock—April, May, early June, late September, October, November and sometimes all of December are ideal to explore the desert country south of Escalante to Hole-in-the-Rock. Graded, good-surface dirt road south out of Escalante, 62 miles to road's end at historic cleft down the wall of the Colorado River Canyon. Pioneers blasted out a passage through the narrow opening to lower their wagons for the river crossing. Here you may view the waters of Lake Powell from the rims, or climb down through the

cleft and think what it would be like to drive a team of horses and wagon down that steep pass.

Deer Creek Recreation Area—Long Canyon—Velvet Hills—Circle Cliffs—Take dirt road east out of Boulder about eight miles to Deer Creek Recreation Area. All-year clear water stream, shaded cottonwood campsites surrounded by colorful cliffs. A spacious BLM no fee area. The road continues through Long Canyon for 10 miles, spectacular scenery is created by vertical walls along the canyon. Two natural arches on the south rim, one near the entrance, the other midway on a small side canyon. When you reach the Long Canyon Overlook, you will see the Velvet Hills below. I am sure you will want to spend some time taking pictures, rock collecting and wandering through this colorful landscape. It is an entirely fascinating place.

The Circle Cliffs are the haunts of professional photographers, prospectors and non-professional rockhounds. The vertical red sandstone cliffs almost surround a great circular valley of about 500 square miles, the east wall being a part of the Waterpocket Fold. Roads into this valley are dirt, but can be traveled, with care, in passenger cars. With your BLM map, it is easy to find your way around, as main junctions are signed.

This would be a good trip to undertake when you must leave Escalante Country, for the Burr Trail down through the Waterpocket Fold connects with a road south to Bullfrog Basin, or north through Notom to Highway 24 at Capitol Reef National Park.

Yes, Escalante Country unfolds scenic wonders in every direction, vast, exciting and colorful. Once you experience this unique land, you will return! ☐

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DESERT ACROBAT

Continued from Page 11

back to do his share in the upbringing chores.

If moving is in order, Mrs. Ringtail seizes a youngster's shoulder in her mouth, or sometimes his whole head, or grips him firmly by the belly, and away they go, Jr. completely relaxed, traveling ringtail-style. Left to himself, he's not much good at getting around at first, depending mostly on his front legs to drag his too-young body along. But as the days go by, and his strength begins to come, he's better and better at it. Besides, he's beginning to look more like a member of the clan all the time, his big ears are up finally, and he can twitch and droop them.

Along about his 29th day, his auditory canals open and what with being able to hear what is going around him now, he begins to smarten up considerably. The 31st to 34th day is the biggest one, for then it is that his eyes open, and after that his development proceeds at full speed.

Fully haired in a juvenile coat at 35 days, he has all the dark grey and black markings in the right places. His face, while not yet alertly pointed like an adults, has become longer, and he's getting his upper and lower canine teeth and some incisors. A few days later, he's an old hand at walking well, and taking aboard a lot of solid food, cactus fruit being a big favorite.

From now on it's a matter of sharpening up, muscle-wise and wit-wise. Foraging with their mother, ringtail youngsters learn what's good to eat and where to find it, and being ringtails catch onto climbing techniques quickly. All they need then is practice, and being young and full of fun and with littermates ditto, much tearing and racing about the rough terrain takes place. It's a wild scramble up and over the rocky slopes, hairbrained leaps and toenail scrabbling at landing, the chased turning suddenly to become the chaser—all to end in a rolling, snarling mock fight, also part of the practice training. At about four months of age, they look much like mini-adults, with a full set of teeth and all. Ringtails at last, they even have the clan's particular odor—a sweet, musky smell, compliments of an amber-colored fluid issued upon occasion from the anal glands.

Like most nocturnal animals, the ringtail is equipped with long facial vibrissae or stiff whiskers which rest in pockets lined with nerve endings. The slightest touch on a whisker causes the ringtail to move away, and their value in night-conducted activities is apparent. So, too, are the ringtail's great nocturnal eyes, so big as to provide space for a large retina area rich in rod cells which, working in the weakest of light, enable the ringtail to go about his business seeing quite well long after the world looks dark to others. Nor is his nose long for nothing, for inside are long nasal passages whose surfaces are loaded with cells specialized in scent news receiving. With all this fine night equipment, and since his taste in food is so unlimited, the ringtail is fairly certain of always dining well.

There's plenty of time, then, in the cool of the desert night, to investigate that sound or scent that catches his attention, or to gallop up a rough vertical cliff, chimney stem down a crevice, or making a racing turn on a narrow ledge, just for the fun of it.

After all, he's a real champion desert acrobat. □

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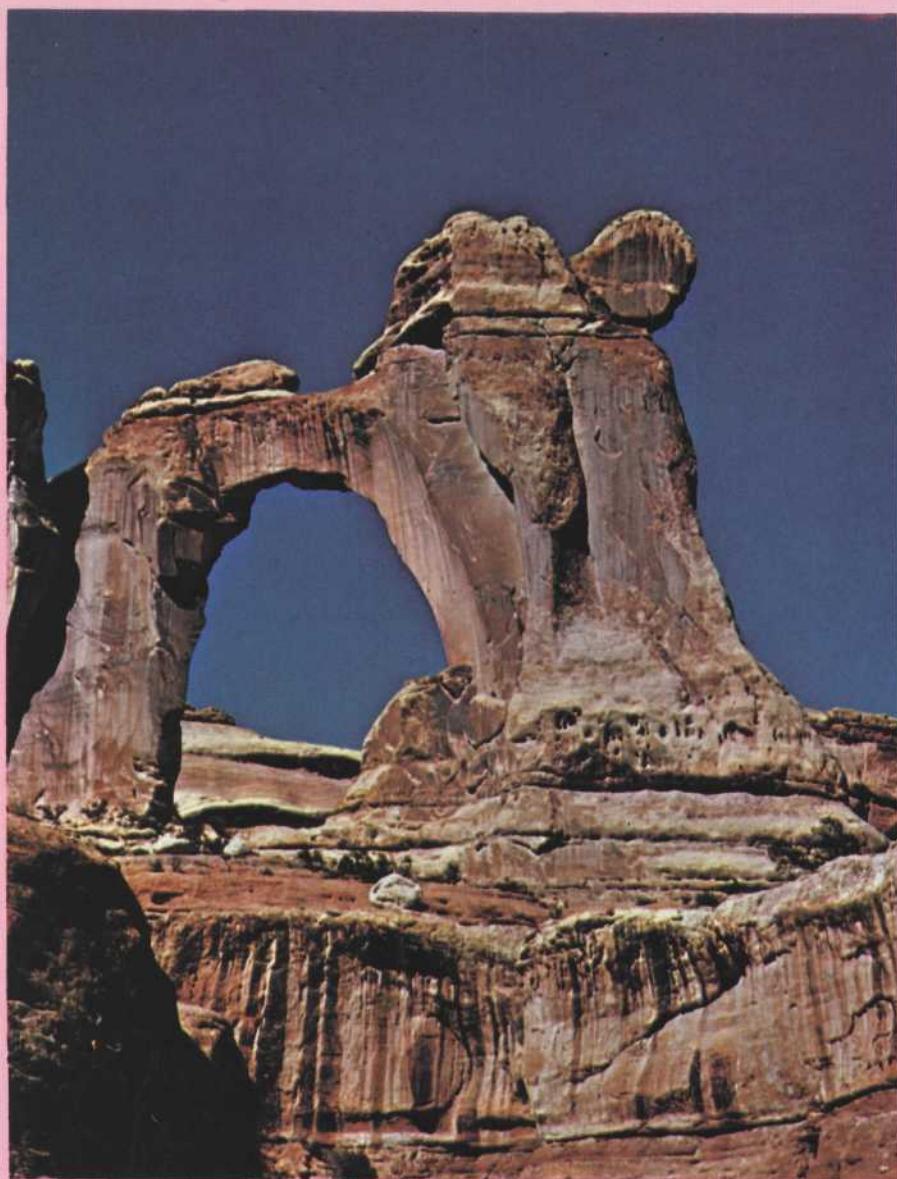
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ORTHOCLASE FELDSPAR: Number 6 in Hardness

IT IS UNFORTUNATE that orthoclase feldspar was chosen as the number 6 hardness indicator. In a later column, we shall discuss it (and others) from the standpoint of being somewhat erroneous, but the factor that dismays most amateur mineralogists is that it is very similar to other feldspars that have different hardnesses. In fact, it is very nearly impossible to discuss orthoclase without discussing microcline feldspar. Regardless of

the discrepancies, orthoclase has been the 6 hardness indicator for more than 100 years, and no doubt will continue to be used for a long time to come.

The similarity of orthoclase to other feldspars, especially microcline, makes a good story. First, we would like to look at the derivation of the names. Feldspar is a group name, which evidently at one time was the only one in use. The present thinking as to its origin is that it is from German. The word *spath* indicates something that can be easily split. The word *feld* is the word for field. Thus, *feldspath* in German means a stone that can be easily split, that is found in the fields. It has since been altered to the English form feldspar. Recent research, however, indicates that possibly the word has a Scandinavian origin.

Until it was noticed that the feldspars were a group of minerals, there were few, if any, other names in use. Today, we know a large number of types of feldspars, but it is sad that the names given to each do little to separate them. Each name is descriptive in some degree, but some names can describe other types as well. Orthoclase is an example of this. The name is from Latin, *ortho*—meaning straight, and *clase*—meaning cleavage (or splitting). The name then literally means that it splits in straight or parallel lines. Other feldspars do this also.

Orthoclase is very similar to microcline feldspar; in fact, it takes laboratory examination to separate them in most cases. The name microcline is also from Latin, *micro*—very little, and *cline*—inclined. To show the meaning of this, we must compare the two in crystalline form.

Orthoclase forms crystals in the monoclinic system in which two of the crystal axial directions (faces for our purposes) meet at 90 degrees (right angles) to each other. The third direction lies at an angle other than 90 degrees. (The name monoclinic means, again Latin, *mono*—one, *clinic*—inclined.) In the case of microcline, the two directions that lie at 90 degrees in orthoclase, lie at an angle other than 90 degrees, thus all angles are oblique, and now we have a crystal that is a member of the triclinic (three inclined) system.

At first thought, a crystal that has all faces meeting at other than 90 degrees could easily be separated from one that has two which meet at 90 degrees. The catch here is that we have not stated how

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many degrees they are apart. When we tell you that, for microcline, two faces meet at $89\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, it now becomes almost ridiculous. The name microcline certainly fits the situation, but does nothing for the person with the specimen in his hand.

To get back to our original statement about orthoclase being an unfortunate choice, to add to what is discussed above, we find that microcline has a hardness of $6\frac{1}{2}$. Now the mineral collector has two minerals that look exactly alike, and each has a different hardness!

Many mineralogists have insisted that the two are really one mineral with some variations. If this could be proven, it would certainly assist the student, but the laboratory seems to place them farther and farther apart. For example, orthoclase changes to a third type of feldspar when heated to a high temperature. Microcline remains unchanged up to and beyond its melting point.

The two minerals, being so similar, have similar modes of occurrence. Both are found in lavas and other igneous rocks. Both are found in rocks that have been baked (metamorphosed), as well as other similar occurrences.

The only formation of note, when only one of the two appears, is in the gem bearing pegmatite dikes. Here, orthoclase does not appear. Some of the crystals found in these dikes are large, up to a foot across, and extremely perfect. Some of them are studded with other minerals such as tourmaline, beryls, etc., that continued to grow after the microcline crystals reached their full size. These make marvelous specimens. Another pegmatite occurrence of microcline is the blue to blue-green type known as amazonstone. It is thought that this was named for the Amazon River, but no one has ever found it in that region of South America.

Most of the occurrences of orthoclase are in lava. In some cases, if the cooling of the lava was very slow, huge crystals were formed, locked in the lava mass. One was so large, that it, a single crystal, became a quarry.

The most important use for feldspar, both orthoclase and microcline, is the making of porcelain. A fine powder, when melted, fuses into a glassy material. Fine china dishes are made of very pure feldspar, usually orthoclase. Most of our modern bathroom fixtures are a porcelain

made from feldspar. The body of the fixture is made for a powder of one consistency, the glaze may be made from a more finely divided powder, or a slightly different type of feldspar.

As mentioned above, the mineral collector prizes feldspar specimens. The crystals of both orthoclase and microcline being nearly identical, form identical types of twins. One type of twin, called a carlsbad twin, is named for Carlsbad, Czechoslovakia. This is two crystals attached side-by-side, or intergrown into each other. A second type twin, named baveno (for Baveno, Italy), is two crystals so intergrown that they are almost perfectly square in outline. A third type, not as common as the other two, is the manebach twin (named for an individual). This is two crystals attached by their sides so that there is a deep notch between them. The notch is the result of faces that meet at less than 90 degrees.

Neither of these two minerals are of great interest to the gem cutter, with the possible exception of moonstone, which is a form of orthoclase. Moonstone is the result of an intergrowth of another feldspar in orthoclase, in which the second mineral reflects light deep from within a nearly transparent material. These are beautiful gems, but the hardness rules against wearing them on a daily basis. The finest moonstone comes from Ceylon. India produces a type that is similar.

Most feldspars appear in glassy clear pieces that may be faceted, but optical properties that produce brilliance are low. They are usually colorless. There is one exception to this colorless situation in a material that comes from a single locality in Madagascar. This is a fine lemon-yellow color, and makes striking, but not very brilliant gems.

There are other feldspars worthy of discussion, but space is limited, thus we will set them aside for a future column. □



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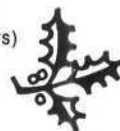
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DEAD HORSE POINT

Continued from Page 31

campground which is now limited to day-use picnicking. And beyond the picnic grounds is the big shade-pavilion that stands on the very tip of the point.

From the pavilion, and the paved, walled walkway that goes around the cliff edge in both directions, is the view that has made this state park famous.

That view is almost indescribable, and is so broad and sweeping that even the

most extreme wide-angle camera lenses cannot take in half of it.

In all directions, deep, colorful and spectacular tributary canyons twist tortuously through colorful rock strata to ultimately join the Colorado. The predominant color of all this canyon maze is the dark red of dried blood.

Except for the faint 4WD trail at its base, only one man-made feature can be seen from Dead Horse Point. To the east, in the midst of sprawling redrock sandflats, huge irregularly-shaped ponds can be seen, covering thousands of acres in a terraced array that virtually covers the flats between the river cliffs and the base of the high plateau. These are solar evaporation ponds where salt solutions pumped from deep mines are concentrated before further refinement. The mill that processes the mineral slurry to remove the valuable potash is out of sight farther up the Colorado River.

But, seeing the view from Dead Horse Point is only part of the picture. Viewing the point, itself, from various angles, is the other part. This can be done from land, air and water, and is spectacular from all three.

Air tours, offered by nearby scenic tour operators, can provide views of Dead Horse Point from almost any angle, including from below. Jet boat tours on the Colorado, offered by two Moab river guides, show the Point best as the towering, slender peninsula that it is. Float-tour passengers, on their way down the river toward Cataract Canyon, also see the Point. Some even camp overnight on sandbars directly below the jutting stone promontory.

Three Moab back-country tour guides also offer land tours that travel along the trail that skirts the base of Dead Horse Point on a sloping terrace far below the overlook, but still hundreds of feet above

the river. This trip is spectacular in many ways.

Dead Horse Point can also be seen from nearby Island in the Sky from 4WD trails that are on the far side of the Colorado River and from Anticline Overlook, another spectacular rim viewpoint on the plateau to the east. And on clear days, Dead Horse Point can also be seen from forest trails high in the La Sals, 25 miles to the east. This illustrates the sheer size of this jutting monolithic peninsula.

Strangely, the tragedy that gave Dead Horse Point its name was not the last to mar the spectacular beauty of this famous overlook. Despite all that has been done to promote safe enjoyment of this cliff-bound park, the sheer numbers of visitors have made tragedy inevitable. Unwary pets have fallen to their deaths, as have several visitors over recent years. The cliff-rim wall is well designed and effective, but cannot save young boys who climb over it while chasing lizards.

Both state and national park officials who administer the parks in the canyon country of southeastern Utah do everything practical to prevent such tragedies, but despair of walling or fencing the hundreds of miles of dangerous rims that can be reached by park visitors. Truly, it is a problem with no solution, because it is simply not possible to make wild, natural canyon-plateau terrain absolutely safe for everyone.

Dead Horse Point—a grim name based upon an unhappy event. Or at least according to the official story dramatized earlier in this article. But every tour guide in the region has his own version of how the park got its name. Some even have a variety of stories—take your pick. A few of these tales are serious, some are deliberately outrageous and a few are so outlandish they elicit only the groans associated with the most ridiculous puns.

But no matter which of the many tales about the naming of this scenic viewpoint is true—if any—it makes little difference. After all, what's in a name? It's the thing, itself, that matters, and in this case the thing is a magnificent, incomparable overlook that has so much to offer that hundreds of thousands of people have been to the remote park, some of them many times.

And more than a few have come away vowing that even the famous Grand Canyon is no match for what they have seen from Dead Horse Point. □

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Letters to the Editor

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Re Lost Dutchman . . .

This is in answer to the man, and many others, who are "puzzled about the Lost Dutchman."

The inconsistencies of the authors of all the books on that very famous, or infamous, mine are caused by lack of facts, or truth and no research. To this lack, the authors then add opinions, suppositions, assumptions, tall tales and lies. This not only confuses the authors, but the readers as well.

None of the authors are, or were grounded in Arizona history or the mining history of Arizona. Thus, except for a few facts, most of it is pure tripe. Of the over 350 items in my library on the Dutchman, very few items are valid and useful. These items were gathered by me over 40 years ago. The name of the game in the field of lost mines and treasures is grass roots research for facts and truth. From such, one has a chance to find the thing sought for, but it is not a guaranteed chance.

For over 40 years I have maintained the "Legend of the Peralta Mines" is a hoax and a rip-off. I have also contended that there is no gold, or possibilities of gold in the Superstitions. Now I am vindicated by an official seven-year study by the US, Arizona, Arizona State University, plus a couple of independent firms. There 'aint' no gold in them thar hills! There is silver, copper, cinnabar and a number of minor ores, but—no gold!

Now to the \$64 question! I know from research that Jacob Waltz (name on his citizenship papers, and on many other documents) had a "prospect" from which he took a small amount of gold—about \$4,000 worth. That said "prospect" is not, nor ever was, in the Superstitions.

In answer to the last paragraph of Mr. Berliner's letter, just be patient. The undersigned will resolve the Dutchman in the not-too-distant future. It will take a documented story to do so.

MILTON F. ROSE, P.E.,
Salome, Arizona.

Users, No Abusers . . .

We wish to express our appreciation for the article on petroglyphs in the California Desert by M. F. Strong. As frequent users of the desert, we are truly fed up with being accused of destroying the desert.

It's about time the users of the desert rise up and let it be known that they have worked hard to clean up, fix up and use, but not abuse our wonderful desert playground. If we don't, others are going to convince government and the general public that the desert is in need of being put in a museum status!

We are enclosing a check and subscription form and hope your magazine continues to tell it how it is!

ERWIN & CAROL MAHR.

Wants An Index . . .

I just received my August issue of *Desert Magazine* and remembered a problem I had several months ago while planning a vacation.

Here's the problem: often, when planning a vacation, we go back through our old copies of *Desert* and check to see if there are places we've missed and to look for places we can go and take our dune buggy along to use for local transportation. We use it more like a Jeep than a dragster. We had difficulty locating articles about the area we were going to visit. Eventually, we found them with a great deal of searching.

Here's the solution. How about putting a state after the article's title and an index in the December issue of the year's articles? At the end of the year, an index might be the inside cover in the back, or the page opposite the Contents page.

Thanks for such an interesting magazine. I sure hope you try some sort of indexing for all of us "research trippers." I hope you consider a four-wheel department, too!

JOHN LEONARD,
Anaheim, California.

Editor's Note: We are presently working on a method of indexing the magazine each year, in addition to indexing all past issues in a booklet form. This will be a valuable asset to planners and researchers like yourself.

Finds Old Magazines . . .

I ran across a couple of your old magazines in an old abandoned house on the Nevada desert, and after reading them I was amazed at so much interest in the desert country which is like home to me. There is so much hidden beauty on the deserts that few ever stop to look for and see.

One copy was dated May, 1957, the other February, 1954. What I would like to know is do you still publish this magazine, and what are the new rates?

MRS. BETTY CUSHMAN,
Hoopa, California.

Hot To Cool . . .

As I finished reading "Summer Desert Hiking," I rose leisurely from my beach chair and walked serenely into the cooling embrace of the ocean.

DOROTHY ALESON,
Oceanside, California.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 1-13, 21st Annual Sunburst of Gems sponsored by the Fresno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., to be held in conjunction with the Fresno District Fair, Industrial Building at the Fair Grounds, East Kings Canyon Road and Chance Avenue in Fresno, Calif. Admission to Fair covers admission to show. Chairman: Judy Geringer, 3905 E. Dwight Way, Fresno, Calif. 93702.

OCTOBER 5 & 6, Seventh Annual National Prospectors — Treasure Hunters Convention sponsored by the Prospectors Club of So. Calif., Galileo Park out of California City, Calif. Competitive events for National Detector Championships, Gold Panning Championships, Dry-Washing Contest, Treasure Hunts, etc. Latest in prospecting and TH'ing equipments will be displayed. Free admission. \$1.00 camping fee for weekend. Contact: Sharon Holcomb, 3216 Sterling Rd., Bakersfield, Calif. (805) 871-2070.

OCTOBER 12 & 13, "Earth's Treasures" presented by the Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society, National Guard Armory Building, Ridge Rd., and Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, Calif. Admission free, dealers, demonstrations.

OCTOBER 12 & 13, "Desert Gem-O-Rama" sponsored by the Searles Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Trona Recreation Hall, Trona, Calif. Camping space available for \$1.00 fee. Dealers, field trips. Admission free. Contact Jenny Langner, Box 966, Trona, Calif. 93462.

OCTOBER 19 & 20, Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society Show, Fallbrook High School cafeteria on South Mission, Fallbrook, Calif. Dealers. Chairman: Chas. Weber, 714-728-2257.

OCTOBER 19 & 20, L.A. County Bottle Show & Sale presented by South Bay Antique Bottle Club and Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club, Hawthorne Memorial Center, 3901 El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif. For information: P. O. Box 60672 Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, Calif. 90060.

OCTOBER 19-20, Special Desert Meeting sponsored by the World-of-Rockhounds Association, Clay Mine Road near Boron, Calif. Field trips. Contact Mrs. Carol Mahr, 27419 Fawnskin Dr., Palos Verdes, Calif. 90274.



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